

# spastics NEWS

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

May, 1969

New Series, Price 6d.

## OCKENDON GRAVELY OVERCROWDED, SAYS MINISTER

**CONCERN OVER** conditions at South Ockendon Hospital, Essex where, it was claimed, a spastic patient was "bashed", has been expressed by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, Mr. Richard Crossman in the Commons.

His comments followed a special investigation at the hospital after the death of a patient there recently. Another patient has since been committed for trial as a result of the death.

And, as reported in last month's "Spastics News," Mr. Crossman also called for a report after a question from Mr. Arthur Lewis, M.P. (West Ham, North) who had been asked by Mrs. Grace Giles to look into her claim that her 21-year-old spastic son, Michael had received serious injuries in the hospital.

In his statement to the Commons on April 14, Mr. Crossman said that the hospital showed "grave overcrowding and grave understaffing."

"The staff at South Ockendon Hospital, as in other hospitals for the mentally subnormal, are struggling against unfair odds and only after the reduction in the number of patients can they hope to provide a satisfactory standard of care," he said.

Admissions to the 1,051-bed hospital have been suspended. The matter came to a head when a Health Department official and a small sub-committee visited the hospital.

A further investigating team from the Health Department is to go to the hospital.

In the Commons, Mr. Lewis said that many of his constituents who had to go to the hospital had nothing but praise for all the staff.

## The no-hope Budget . . .

**ATTACKING THE** Budget, which again brought no hope of tax relief for the physically handicapped, Mr. James Loring, the Spastics Society's Director, accused the Government of shoring up the Welfare Services at the expense of the disabled.

### Comment

## What's the difference?

**THE LAW** is not an ass. But the people who administer it sometimes appear to be. Consider the case of Mr. Metcalf and his nine-year-old spastic daughter Angela. They drove 80 miles to Portsmouth for a day at the seaside. It was Families' Week there, a fine day and the beach — since Angela has to be carried everywhere — Mr. Metcalf gave up trying to find an authorised space and, reasonably enough under the circumstances, slipped into one reserved for disabled drivers.

### RIDICULOUS

The result? A parking ticket. The police were sympathetic, but referred Mr. Metcalf to the traffic wardens' department where he was told it was "just his bad luck." And at Court later, he was convicted.

The fact that he was given an absolute discharge does not make the situation any less ridiculous. This case should never have come to Court. But no-one was prepared to bend the rules.

It is in any case, high time that regulations were altered. Unless, of course, someone can come up with a good answer to this question:

**WHAT IN THE NAME OF SANITY IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DISABLED DRIVER AND A DISABLED PERSON BEING DRIVEN INsofar AS SPECIAL PARKING PRIVILEGES ARE CONCERNED?**

Large organisations loudly demanding action with undertones of violence or industrial action attracted the Government's attention, said Mr. Loring. However, minority groups who were merely anxious to be financially independent were not only ignored but fully taxed, so that they helped to subsidise benefits or allowances for those who had no need of them.

Blind people were rightly allowed tax relief of up to £100 p.a. The thousands of other handicapped workers had no such relief.

### Same taxes

The present structure meant that a cripple paid the same taxes as a muscular docker, yet his expenses were higher and wages generally lower. He wore his clothes out twice as fast. Shoes often took three months' wear in one week, while garments quickly wore through in areas of constant pressure.

Mr. Loring also mentioned the disabled motorist—his car an essential life-line—who paid heavier insurance and was allowed no tax relief if the vehicle was not used strictly "in the performance of duty."

The Government might claim that invalid cars were provided, but most disabled people doubted their safety. Resenting not being able to share outings with family or friends, they often purchased standard models.

### BELL-RINGERS AID SCHOOL

Four young bell-ringers from Paignton Parish Church have handed over £50 to Dame Hannah Rogers Spastics School, Ivybridge, Devon.

The money was raised by ringing handbells in pubs and clubs, and £30 was also given to other charities.



## INTRODUCING THE NIMMO FETE FEET FEAT

(Oh, brother!)

Actually, brothers, it's a pun. Well, sort of . . . Fete . . . feet . . . You comprehend? Oh . . . Well, anyhow, I (Derek Nimmo, that is) will be at the Rodney House Nursery Clinic, Manchester garden fete and Midsummer Fair with Miss Great Britain on June 21.

We will be riding in vintage cars in a procession from Levenshulme with the Wythenshawe Band and "Kings and Queens" from local churches.

Miss Great Britain will release 1,000 balloons and I shall be opening the fete. We hope to raise £1,000. Golly gosh!

## New racing contest has £2,000 prizes

**A NEW COMPETITION** has been launched to raise money for The Spastics Society. It offers a total of £2,000 in prize money, and is called "Winning Post."

In the contest entrants have to decide the finishing order of the first six horses in a race pictured on the entry form.

Top prize of £1,500 goes to the best entry, and £500 to the second best. The competition is published in The Daily Mail, the Northern edition of The Sun, and the Liverpool Echo.

Entries are 6d a line with seven attempts for 2/6d and 15 for 5s.

**FOOTNOTE:** Spastics News, too, this month begins a new and original money-raising contest, "Dartpoints," with a £50 prize, proceeds of which each month will be devoted to specific objects (See page 4).

## Girl (3) found drowned in playpool

A three-year-old spastic girl was found drowned in a playpool at Lea Castle Hospital, Kidderminster. She was Angela Lea who was able only to crawl short distances. Angela was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Lea of Rugeley (Staffs.).

An official of the Mid-Worcestershire Hospital Management Committee said a "most thorough investigation" would be made into the tragedy.

## Mrs. Wilson is 'Week' patron

Mrs. Mary Wilson, wife of the Prime Minister, and Sir William Worsley, father of the Duchess of Kent—Patron of the Spastics Society—are among a further list of patrons of Spastics Week.

Other celebrities who have recently accepted invitations to become patrons are: Jockey Sir Gordon Richards, sports commentator Eddie Waring; equestrian Dorian Williams; naturalist Peter Scott; the Conservative M.P., Mr. Quintin Hogg; the Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt. Rev. John Leonard Wilson; Mrs. Gervas Clay; Lord Somerleyton; Earl Cadogan, and Lady Elizabeth Cavendish.

Earl Cadogan is patron of the Association of Friends of the Centre for Spastic Children at Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, and Lady Elizabeth Cavendish is a vice-president of the Association.

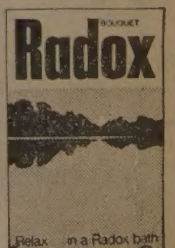
The 12 patrons announced here join 14 others whose names were published in the March issue of "Spastics News."

## Relax in a Radox bath

### After a hard day relax in a Radox bath.

Have the water just comfortably hot. Slide right down in the bath. Linger in it for at least 10 minutes. Fatigue and tension just float away in warm water made soothing and fragrant by Radox. It's a comfort to both tired mind and weary body. Your skin is left smooth, soft and refreshed. Soap lathers better. Hardwater scum and 'high tide marks' are eliminated. A quick rinse with plain water and the bath is left clean and inviting. Then, off to bed: relaxed in body and mind. You'll sleep better and wake refreshed.

**Radox makes a bath special.**



A NICHOLAS N PRODUCT, BATH ROAD, SLOUGH, BUCKS.



The Speaker of the House of Commons, Dr. Horace King, meets one of the spastics who work at the new centre which he had just opened in Warren Avenue, Portsmouth. At left is the chairman of the local group, Mr. E. R. G. Keeping. (Report on page 4).



# Decision-makers at Dene Park Oxford m-s-n has new Principal seminar

Mr. G. H. Steels, formerly deputy headmaster of the Hephaistos Residential Grammar School for Physically Handicapped Boys, near Reading, Berkshire, has been appointed Principal of the Spastics Society's Dene Park Further Education Centre.

Mr. Steels, who is aged 49 and married, took up his new post on April 1. Mr. P. K. Mayhew, Headmaster of Thomas Delarue Grammar School, has been acting Principal pending the appointment.

## OVERNIGHT UNIT FOR TANFIELD

Work on the new overnight stay unit at Tanfield Training Centre, Hindley, Lancs., is under way.

The unit is a project of the Wigan and District Spastics Society, and will provide a place where handicapped children from Tanfield can stay overnight in the care of trained nurses, thus providing parents with temporary relief.

And hand-in-hand with this development, Lancashire County Council are also building a special care unit for 12 badly handicapped children at Tanfield. Both should be completed within a year.

## Doll stolen

A Spastics Society collecting box doll holding about £2 has been stolen from St. Albans Road, Watford.

## Short Story Contest

This is your last chance to enter our £25 short story competition for spastics with literary talents.

The award will be made by a panel of judges to the best original work of fiction entered before May 31. The prize will be awarded to the story which is considered the most meritorious as a work of literature.

### RULES

1. Entries should preferably be typed, but hand-written stories will receive equal consideration, regardless of degree of handicap.
2. They should not exceed 1,000 words in length, although some leeway will be permitted.
3. All entries must be placed in a sealed envelope on which authors should write only a nom-de-plume (e.g. "Red Robin") and only this nom-de-plume should appear at the head of the story with the title. The inclusion of a name and/or address with the story will disqualify the entry.
4. A second sealed envelope should contain the completed entry form and be marked on the outside with the nom-de-plume.
5. Both envelopes should be posted in one enclosure to: The Editor, Spastics News, 12, Park Crescent, London, W.1., to arrive by first post on May 31, 1969.
6. No stories can be returned. The prize-winning entry, and any other story used and paid for at our usual rates, will become the copyright of The Spastics Society.
7. No entry can be considered unless the author is a spastic. Proof of this may be required before the prize is awarded.
8. In the event of the judges considering that one or more entries are of equal merit, the right to divide the £25 prize is reserved.

### ENTRY FORM

I enclose my short story. It is an original work of fiction written or dictated by me. I agree to abide by the rules.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

NOM-DE-PLUME .....

NEW PATTERNS of care and services for the mentally sub-normal were the subject of a seminar at University College, Oxford, from April 15 to April 21.

The seminar, organised by The Spastics Society, was the eighth of its kind to be held at Oxford. It took place at a time of increasing public disquiet about the care of the mentally sub-normal in Britain.

In previous years, psychologists, doctors, teachers and therapists discussed papers dealing specifically with the special education of spastics. This year there was an important change.

The Director of the Society, Mr. James Loring, said: "During the last three or four years, the Society has become increasingly concerned with the problems of spastics in the low or educationally sub-normal ranges.

### Hopes unfulfilled

"Much of its early work was with spastics who were more or less of average intelligence and it was always hoped that by the time the Society's task had been completed in that field, services for the mentally handicapped would have improved so substantially that it would not be necessary for the Society to become greatly concerned.

"It was expected that local authorities, hospital boards and charities specifically concerned with the mentally handicapped would tackle the problems of the severely subnormal successfully.

"It was also expected that

spastics would benefit, as would other mentally handicapped persons.

"This has not been the case and the Society was confronted by a situation in which many families with mentally handicapped children felt that they were seriously neglected."

As a result, the Society devoted the seminar to the problems of the mentally sub-normal in a bid to persuade the "decision makers" in this field to look forward, apply new research, and refuse to be content with what had been done in the past.

Papers dealt with the vital issues involved and study groups provided an opportunity to frankly discuss the ideas presented.

The seminar will be reported in the June issue.

## A burden for Mr. Brunner

SHEFFIELD plans to follow the example of Leatherhead's new Thorndike Theatre which, as reported in Spastics News, has made special provision for the disabled.

A new theatre is being built to replace the old Sheffield Playhouse.

But no such prospect of easy access is opened up for dairy cattle exhibitor Mr. D. F. B. Brunner who has shown at Olympia for some years.

He invariably has difficulty in gaining admission, the authorities granting permission subject to "(a) Your being accompanied by a responsible person, and (b) your remaining on the ground floor."

Says Mr. Brunner: "One can only gather that anybody in a wheelchair is automatically assumed to be not only physically handicapped but mentally irresponsible . . ."

## Art exhibition planned

The 1969 Exhibition, "Art of the Invalid Child," organised by the Invalid Children's Aid Association will be held at the Royal Exchange from June 9th to 21st.

Sir Thomas Monnington, P.R.A., will head the panel of judges, who this year will include Osbert Lancaster, the cartoonist.

## PREMISES SOUGHT

DARLINGTON and District Spastics Society is looking for premises where group functions can be held.

They have tried to start a youth club in the basement of the Council for Social Services, but this proved unsuitable for chair-bound spastics.

Another problem facing the group is that of finding voluntary workers willing to help raise money in the area, particularly during Spastics Week.

"It does not matter what events are put on, so long as something is done," said Mr. R. B. H. Allen, the North East Regional Officer, at a meeting in Darlington.



Stratford Johns, star of TV's "Softly, Softly," made a fair cop of coppers when he pushed over a pile of pennies at the Red Lion, Axbridge. It contained £14 10s. Mr. Johns took the opportunity to perform the task while on a filming engagement at Weston-super-Mare. Also in the picture—the landlord, Mr. Eric Percy. (Picture by Nick Barrington).

## Birmingham for the handicapped

To help the disabled, useful guidebooks to various cities in Great Britain are gradually being published. The latest addition to the series is "Birmingham for the Disabled," by Rosalind Chalmers, published by Birmingham Council of Social Service in conjunction with the Central Council for the Disabled.

It provides a comprehensive survey of welfare services, transport, public lavatories, shops, restaurants and entertainments, and examines the suitability of public buildings for people in wheelchairs or those who walk with sticks.

Other facilities vary, but there is a great deal of building work going on in Birmingham, and city architects are aware of the problems of access for the disabled. It is hoped that most of the new buildings being planned will make provision for the elderly and handicapped.

\* A.P.

## Disabled unemployed figures rise

UNEMPLOYMENT among the disabled was four times the national average, Mr. Jack Ashley (Lab., Stoke-on-Trent), who is himself disabled by total deafness, complained in the Commons.

Mr. Ernest Fernyhough, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of Employment and Productivity, had told him that in February this year 69,298—10.6 per cent of registered disabled persons—were registered as unemployed.

He explained the rate of unemployment among disabled was never as low as general unemployment.

### Under review

"My disablement resettlement officers are doing everything possible to find suitable employment for those who are unemployed, including industrial rehabilitation and training where appropriate," said Mr. Fernyhough.

"I look to employers to do all

they can to make opportunities available. The operation of the quota scheme, and the provision of sheltered employment, are being kept regularly under review in consultation with my national advisory council on the employment of the disabled."

Mr. Ashley said despite the efforts being made "the problem is getting worse." He added: "In the last six months the figures have risen from 9.9 per cent to 10.6 per cent, which is over four times the national average."

"Thousands of disabled workers regard this system as a failure and a flop." Would he conduct an inquiry into the best methods of tackling the problem?

Mr. Fernyhough: "I am aware

many unemployed disabled people are seriously worried about their difficulty in finding employment."

### Not a failure

Mr. Fernyhough did not agree that the service provided by his department was a failure — 34,700 disabled people were placed in employment by his department in the last six months.

A special committee of his national advisory council on employment of disabled were considering the situation, which he agreed was one for concern, and when it reported he would consider what further steps were necessary.

## YOU CAN HELP BUILD UP

## SPASTICS NEWS

## CIRCULATION

PRICE ONLY 10d.

(including postage)

By changing the NEWS from a magazine to a newspaper costs have been cut nearly 20%

**THIS BENEFIT IS BEING PASSED ON TO READERS**

Circulation has jumped from 11,000 to well over 60,000 and is climbing steadily.

**FIRST TARGET: 100,000**

You can help to reach this circulation where advertising will make the NEWS a big income earner for Spastics.

### CUT OUT AND SEND THIS FORM

I want to help build the SPASTICS NEWS circulation. Please send until further notice to the name and address below the NEWSPAPER SPASTICS NEWS each month at the annual subscription rate of 10/- including postage, starting with the ..... issue

I enclose a cheque/postal order for 10/-.

Name and Address .....  
(Block capitals please)

Send to:  
Editor Spastics News, 12 Park Crescent, London W1.



Stanley Holt is  
intending to make  
people pay for  
the privilege of  
watching him cut  
off his

## BEARD WORTH £100

STANLEY HOLT, vice-chairman of the Students' Association at Bolton Technical College sports a very fine beard indeed. He is very proud of it indeed.

But he intends to sacrifice it—to shave it off, in public—providing he can sell £100 worth of tickets to people who want to see it come off.

The money will go to the local spastics group for their Spastics Week funds. And the group were so impressed by the offer that they have made him Chairman for the Week. Why is Stanley prepared to make this supreme sacrifice? "So many people have tried to make me shave it, but I have decided to make them pay for the privilege. I value it at £100."

The College is one of several local organisations who will be helping the group to raise money during Spastics Week. The attractions so far planned are a sponsored walk in fancy-dress, a variety show, a carnival and a football match between the Granada All Stars and Addington Dynamos.

### Students on the march

It was no protest march when 35 students paraded round and round the Braintree town centre. All in fancy dress, they were walking for spastics.

All the students, from Braintree College of Further Education, were sponsored. They marched for 2½ hours; all finished, and it is expected that £30 will have been raised.

### Mayoress Patron

The Mayoress of Canterbury, Mrs. H. J. Buckworth, has agreed to be Patron of the Canterbury and Kent Coast Group Spastics Week. The group has set a target of £300 for the week.



Stanley contemplates his £100 beard. It will cost that to get him to shave it off. (Picture, courtesy Tillotson's Newspapers Limited).

## New information service is ready for inquiries

A CONSIDERABLE store of information on national and local services for spastics has now been built up by the Society's Services Liaison Department. And the Department is now "ready to go" in dealing with enquiries.

### IT COULD HAPPEN TO YOU...

MR. ARTHUR Blackwell's joy at being told by the examiner that he had passed his driving test knew no bounds.

But that joy, only six days later, he answered a knock on his door to find a £700 Ford Escort saloon on the Spastics Pool.

Because Mr. and Mrs. Blackwell, of Bournewood, Wokingham, had no car of their own—and were just beginning to put a bit by for one when the good news arrived.

Said Mr. Blackman: "You read about others winning these prizes, but you never really think it can happen to you."

The importance, however, of a two-way flow of information is being stressed. Local groups, Regional Social Workers and others using the service are being encouraged not merely to stop there, but to contribute information themselves to ensure that it remains up-to-date accurate and comprehensive.

At a recent study group on communications, it was recognised that local groups would need support in providing certain kinds of information such as that concerning national centres or facilities outside the immediate locality.

Professional workers should approach the Society's Intelligence Officer at 96 Portland Place, London W.1, who will also give any assistance sought by the local groups and centres.

## £1,200 cheque for Preston

Preston Amouneress Ladies' Circle have presented a cheque for over £1,200 to the Preston and District Group towards the maintenance of the local spastics day centre.

The money was raised from a good-as-new shop organised by Mrs. Pamela Beaumont.

### Work centre 'on bonus'

Spastic employees at the Leeds Work Centre are assembling components for a local firm which manufactures and distributes motor spares.

Ten workers are at present handling 10,000 components per week. They work on a bonus system and this is believed to be the first of the Society's centres to introduce such a scheme.

### Pool offer

Mrs. Joan Lawrence of Canterbury has placed her heated swimming pool at the disposal of local spastics on one afternoon a week. Mrs. Lawrence has also offered to help supervise the spastics while in the pool.

## Lord Derby sees Lancaster training centre

A highlight of Lord Derby's flying visit to the Spastics Society's Lancaster Training Centre was the presentation to him of a special collapsible garden chair which folds up into a walking stick.

The chair was presented by trainee Robert Martin, 17, of Torrisholme Road, Lancaster, who is one of the Centre's team producing components for the chair.

The centre should have been officially opened by Lord Derby last November, but he was unable to do so through illness and the Mayor of Lancaster acted on his behalf.

Wednesday's visit was short and informal. Lord Derby was shown round the centre by staff and officials while normal work continued, and he later had tea with his hosts.

Among those to whom he

# Introducing: The 100 w.p.m. word-store

NEW VISTAS have been opened up for a severely handicapped spastic at Oakwood Further Education Centre through the development of a brilliant machine by Mr. R. G. Maling, whose Possum equipment enables the disabled to operate a large range of equipment by remote control.

## ...and the girl who will help to pay

BECAUSE Mr. Maling's new machine is a prototype, the cost will be about £2,000. Dick Boydell hopes to demonstrate it at the September World Congress of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled in Dublin.

This is where attractive brunette, Tina Peel-Yates, steps into the story.

Tina, a 21-year-old secretary, of White Hart, Earls Colne, has been sponsored by a Worcester-shire firm in the Charity Princess competition being organised by Regional Pool Promotions.



Tina

When she learned of the benefits a word storage typewriter would bring Dick, she decided to raise £1,000 towards its cost.

The competition takes place in two weeks' time and if, by then, Tina has raised her £1,000, she stands a chance of winning first prize of £500 which she would also hand over to Dick for the new Possum.

So far, an anonymous donor has agreed to give her £10 for every £100 she raises. Tina is now working flat out thinking up and organising ways of getting more money. "Having met Dick and seen him at work, I am more determined than ever to get the money," she said. "It would be a great tragedy if £2,000 stood in the way of Dick's career."

Dick Boydell, 35 years old and with an I.Q. of 150, was the first patient to make use of Possum. He has also helped in its development with suggestions for modifications and improvements.

Using it, his present speed operating a typewriter attachment is 18 w.p.m. But now Mr. Maling has come up with a new machine which could help Dick achieve speeds of around 100 words a minute.

The machine—a word-store typewriter—stores words and phrases which can be utilised with minimal movement of a limb—in Dick's case, his foot—through pressure of a series of micro-switches. They appear at rapid speeds as they are released from the "store".

Dick works as a free-lance computer programmer for the Ford Motor Company. Said his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Boydell: "Thanks to Possum and Oakwood, he has achieved miracles. If it hadn't been for Possum it wouldn't have been possible, and if he hadn't been at Oakwood he wouldn't have got the chance. For years we thought there was no hope. And now—well, it's unbelievable."

Oakwood was established by The Spastics Society.

## RIDING CENTRE PLANS

A riding centre for the disabled is being planned at The Portland House Livery Stables, Epsom.

The organiser, Patricia Thorne of Brandies Cottage, 8 Guy Road, Wallington, (Telephone 01-699-2302, evenings) would be glad to hear from helpers who would be prepared to lead ponies, even if only once a month, and from riders with any disability. They will be considered subject to medical consent.

Cost of the facilities will be 5s. per half hour.

## Revolving stand for spastics at 'flying' display

The Woking and District Model Aero Club are giving a display at the Thomas Delarue School on Sunday, 11th May, in the afternoon.

Twenty of their members will be flying aircraft and are also bringing with them a special base they are making for wheelchairs which will rotate in order that chairbound spastics can follow the flight of the aircraft.

The approach was made by the Aero Club in the first instance.

## Young Tories offer aid

Members of Wallington (Surrey) Young Conservatives helped the Spastics Society during a door-to-door collection at the end of March.

They agreed to do this after hearing a talk about the Society's work.





# Mother had no feeling for spastic girl, court told

## County shop plan from Watford

The idea that the Watford Group's Spastic Shop should become a county shop, with all groups donating gifts for sale, when it re-opens later this year, is put forward in the Watford news-letter.

As the idea catches on, says the writer, perhaps other groups in the county will open their own shops for this common cause.

The Watford shop closed at the end of March after raising over £1,500 for the local group.

Fifty boys from Aldenham School put in a lot of hard work for the Watford Group, making a collection for the shop and raising over £88.

## Salisbury give £1,000 to Odstock School

The Salisbury and District Spastic Association has given £1,000 to the Odstock Hospital School for Handicapped Children.

The money will be used for expansion and re-equipment of the school which has been running for 14 years. It has at present 12 pupils between the ages of four and nine, most of whom are spastics, but in time it is hoped to cater for double this number of children.

Bury St. Edmunds Juvenile Court were told by a health visitor that she had gained the impression that a mother had no feelings for her three-year-old spastic daughter.

But an older child was treated affectionately and was well nourished and happy.

The health visitor was giving evidence when the N.S.P.C.C. applied to show that the spastic child was in need of care and protection or control because a lack of care or guidance was likely to cause her unnecessary suffering and affect her health or proper development.

She described how she and an N.S.P.C.C. Inspector found bruises on the child's body and cheek, a nose injury, a swollen left arm and cold and swollen feet.

The mother claimed that the child had been hysterical and had been "falling around."

But the health visitor, Miss M. Ward, said although the child had some spasticity in one leg, she was not mentally retarded.

The magistrates found the case proved and made an order that the girl should be put in the care of a fit person.

## HUMPH PLAYS

A concert was given by Humphrey Lyttleton and other jazz musicians at the Castle public house in Kingsland High Street, North London. Later, "Humph" received a cheque for £100 collected at the Castle in aid of Oakwood Spastics centre.

## Laugh with Meigh



## Decoration

The Scunthorpe spastics centre has been decorated free by members of the local branch of the Master Painters and Decorators Federation. The cost involved in time and equipment was £400.

In return, the local Society entertained the Federation at a Social evening.



Some of the Coombe Farm party at the ceremony

## THE VIEW FROM THE INSIDE

They're changing the Guard at Buckingham Palace. The sightseers come from Delhi and Dallas. And Coombe Farm spastics have a grandstand view. "Such a pity it's raining too," says Alice.

A FEW MONTHS ago it was announced in "Spastics News" that the Queen had consented to allow parties of disabled people to watch the Changing of the Guard from within the Palace gates.

A party from Coombe Farm Centre took advantage of this offer during an Easter outing arranged for the 15 residents who had not gone home for the holidays.

Inevitably, it was pouring with rain, but as the Coombe Farm coach and mini-bus had been allowed to park right inside the forecourt, everybody was able to keep dry while watching the ceremony.

\* \* \*

Owing to the weather, the Guardsmen were wearing their drab grey overcoats, but any lack of visual colour was compensated for in the cheerful martial music of the two bands.

The Scots Guards were the relieving company, much to the delight of Christine, one of the Coombe Farm residents, whose family comes from Scotland. Soon, nearly everybody in the bus was beating time to the stirring Highland marches.

At the end of the ceremony, which lasted nearly an hour, the two vehicles turned again through the massive gilded iron gates, past the international crowd of tourists which lined the railings, into the outside world once more. The Coombe Farm party was off to lunch at the Festival Hall.

## Ten-bungalow plea is turned down

AN APPEAL by Cardiff and District Spastics Association for permission to build ten bungalows on a site adjoining their £57,000 centre has been rejected by Mr. George Thomas, Secretary of State for Wales.

## BEACONS GO CRASHING

Thirty-five beacons in aid of the spastics were knocked over in the three months ending March in the North of England and they yielded £1,207.

Ten were demolished by Pierre the Clown, and Jack Howarth pushed over five. Other celebrities who gave their services were Miss United Kingdom (Miss Kathleen Winstanley), Violet Carson, Reg Dixon, John Whiteley (captain of Hull R.F.C.) Miss Industry of Rossendale (Miss Poulton le Fylde) and Jackie Charlton.

The Association appealed to Mr. Thomas after their plans had been turned down by Cardiff City Council. Council surveyors said that the bungalows would take too much space from the grounds of the spastics centre.

However, the Group has now been invited to submit a modified plan for seven bungalows on the site.

## Jumble sale

The Worthing, Littlehampton and District Spastics Society ran a jumble sale at Worthing at which £40 was raised. The monthly whist drive realised a profit of £5.5s.0d.

## The story of the boy next door...

AT 25-years-old, Alan Broom, a spastic, is virtually led-ridden. His mother is dead; his father is in an old folks' home.

The problem of where to accommodate Alan became acute. But some enlightened "bending of the rules" by the Peterborough local authority has brought a happy, if temporary solution.

Although Alan is a young man, they have allowed him to be-

come a resident in the old people's ward at St. John's Hospital—next door to St. John's Home, where his father lives.

They decided on this action so that his father, Mr. William Broom, will be within easy reach.

Mr. Broom is unsteady on his feet; it takes him half an hour to reach his son's bedside next

door. And how long the authorities will allow the situation to remain unchanged is not known.

Group Hospital Secretary Mr. H. F. Donald said: "Alan will remain where he is indefinitely."

And a pleased Mr. Broom commented: "It would break his heart if he had to move away. I don't want him to go. He is very happy where he is."

## Now—the world's finest wheelchairs weigh as little as 27 lb



STANDARD LIGHTWEIGHT MODEL  
Has patented combined wheels and hand-rims. Swinging detachable footrests. Also available with pneumatic tired wheels and separate hand-rims.



LIGHTWEIGHT CAR TRANSIT MODEL  
This model has heavy duty pneumatic tyres to absorb all shocks and jolts. Folds to 9" wide and 25" long, without the swinging detachable footrests.



LIGHTWEIGHT DETACHABLE ARMS MODEL  
Allows close approach to desk, table or workbench and is of particular appeal to those in business. Fitted with combined wheel and hand-rims or alternatively with pneumatic tyres and separate hand-rims.

Imagine a wheelchair so light that a child can lift it, that folds to less than 10" wide and is superbly made for outstanding comfort and performance. You are thinking of a new Everest & Jennings folding lightweight wheelchair.

This new range of Everest & Jennings folding wheelchairs has been expertly designed to weigh only slightly more than half the weight of ordinary wheelchairs, yet to embody all the advantages which have made Everest & Jennings wheelchairs world famous.

### ALL EVEREST & JENNINGS LIGHTWEIGHT WHEELCHAIRS HAVE THESE OUTSTANDING ADVANTAGES:

**Design** Whatever your disability, you will find an E. & J. wheelchair which has been designed to meet exactly your special requirements.

**Comfort** All E. & J. Wheelchairs give absolute comfort because shocks are controlled. Upholstery is in tough nylon to prevent sagging and discomfort.

**Strength** Each E. & J. wheelchair has an all steel frame and cross-bars and is perfectly balanced to give many years of trouble-free use. Only E. & J. wheelchairs are chromium-plated with Grade-1 severe service nickel chrome.

**Mobility** All E. & J. wheelchairs are designed to give effortless movement and control. Wheels have double ball bearings for the smoothest ride.

**Guarantee** All E. & J. wheelchairs carry a 12 months guarantee.

## Please accept this invitation

You are invited to send, without obligation, for a colour brochure which gives details of the complete range of Everest & Jennings folding lightweight wheelchairs. Please write to: Zimmer Orthopaedic Limited, Zimmer House, 176-178 Brompton Road, London SW3

Name .....

Address .....

## EVEREST & JENNINGS

Manufactured by Zimmer Orthopaedic Ltd., London Offices & Showrooms, 176-178 & 134 Brompton Road, S.W.3. Telephone: 01-584 6416. Birmingham Showrooms, Theatre Approach, Smallbrook Ringway, Birmingham 5. Telephone: 021-643 1324. Also: Bridgend, Glamorgan, G.B.



# Aberfan — and afterwards

**THE TWIN VILLAGES** of Aberfan and Merthyr Vale lie on the hillsides of a narrow valley, one on either side of the river Taff and the Merthyr Vale Colliery. Together they form a Ward of the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil and are some five miles from the town.

The 1920s and '30s, the time of the slump, depression and the general strike, hit Merthyr probably more than anywhere else, and the finances of the local authority have not yet recovered. Everyone over 40 remembers those times vividly. They had fought against the means test. Kier Hardy, the first Labour Member of Parliament, represented Merthyr for many years.

These people also fought for many years for nationalisation, and this was one of the saddest parts of the disaster of Aberfan — how they were let down by the National Coal Board. They could not understand it.

For all this black picture, the borough has one of the highest records for degrees in education. It has the highest rates in the country, but an exceptionally high proportion of them is spent on education.

Aberfan is by no means the "poor little backward mining village" portrayed in some newspapers. As in other Welsh valley communities, education is all-important. The greater proportion of bereaved mothers whom I have visited, had been to grammar school and their fathers are in skilled or professional employment.

At the time of the disaster, the phrase was heard again and again — "the scholarship class has gone." It was terrible that all this talent should go; these were gifted children and had been encouraged in their gifts.

## Numbed

In Aberfan, few of the married women go out to work. Before the tragedy, there were few organised clubs or groups. The people were self-sufficient, the men in their work and the women in their homes and the care of their children.

Then came the disaster and it seemed that life never could or would be the same again. When I first went there five weeks after the disaster, it was to a community numbed. Of the thousands who had poured into the village at the time of the disaster, only the two or three Welfare Officers remained to help. It was said

## By AUDREY M. DAVEY

The author, the Society's Regional Social Worker, South Wales, was given long leave of absence to help after the Aberfan disaster, working under the Merthyr Health Department.

"when the Queen came and went (on the 14th day)—every-one went."

The people felt abandoned. The corporation, not knowing to what degree they would be held responsible by the Tribunal, were very wary of doing anything. The councillors had been rejected by the people who had lost all faith in authority, in the future, and in themselves.

For a time, it looked as though the fund, which had grown with the tokens of sympathy sent as money from all over the world, was to be withheld from them and they were to have no say in how it should be spent. Then the feeling of abandonment gave way to one of a determination to "go it alone." An action committee was set up — first of parents, then of parents and residents. This committee was born of a necessity to appoint legal representation for parents at the Tribunal and it worked both as a pressure group and welfare organisation. Many hours were spent distributing toys — Princess Margaret Appeal, arranging the many parties and outings given for the children and arranging family holidays.

## A strain

The newspapers reported daily on the Tribunal; day after day there were stories of incompetence, neglect and ineptitude on the part of members of the National Coal Board and of the Tribunal. It seemed that even the tiniest episode in the village (but only, it seemed, if it had a bad connotation) was reported in the newspapers. This was a tremendous strain on the people.

Through all this, there was the constant evidence of lack of communication. This lack caused the disaster and was causing misunderstanding now — between the local authority and the village, between the Fund Committee and the village, between the bereaved and non-bereaved, between Aberfan and Merthyr Vale and it seemed for a time between Aberfan and the world — at least the world that read the newspapers — and this lack bred rumours.

With a minister of the Church of Christ who had been

sent by his Church to work in the village for three months, I convened a meeting of caregivers to meet everyone, to find out what each was doing, to obviate overlapping, and because of the shortage to expend our efforts in the best way. This meeting was the first of a series that still continues.

To the earlier meetings we invited in addition to G.P.s, Ministers of religion and the Welfare Officers who had been working in the village, representatives of various voluntary organisations, and appropriate members of the local authority and we discussed current problems.

We were viewed with suspicion at first — being seen by some members of the local authority and the Fund Committee as a pressure group, and by the villagers as just another group of outsiders who would tell them what they should do. After an initial mistake of making a plea as a group to the Local Authority to hasten the clearing of the disaster area, we handed over any action-taking to the Parents' and Residents' Association or appropriate authority for discussion, and invited members of the local authority, the Fund Committee, the National Coal Board, the Parents' and Residents' Association and other local organisations and evolved into a co-ordinating group.

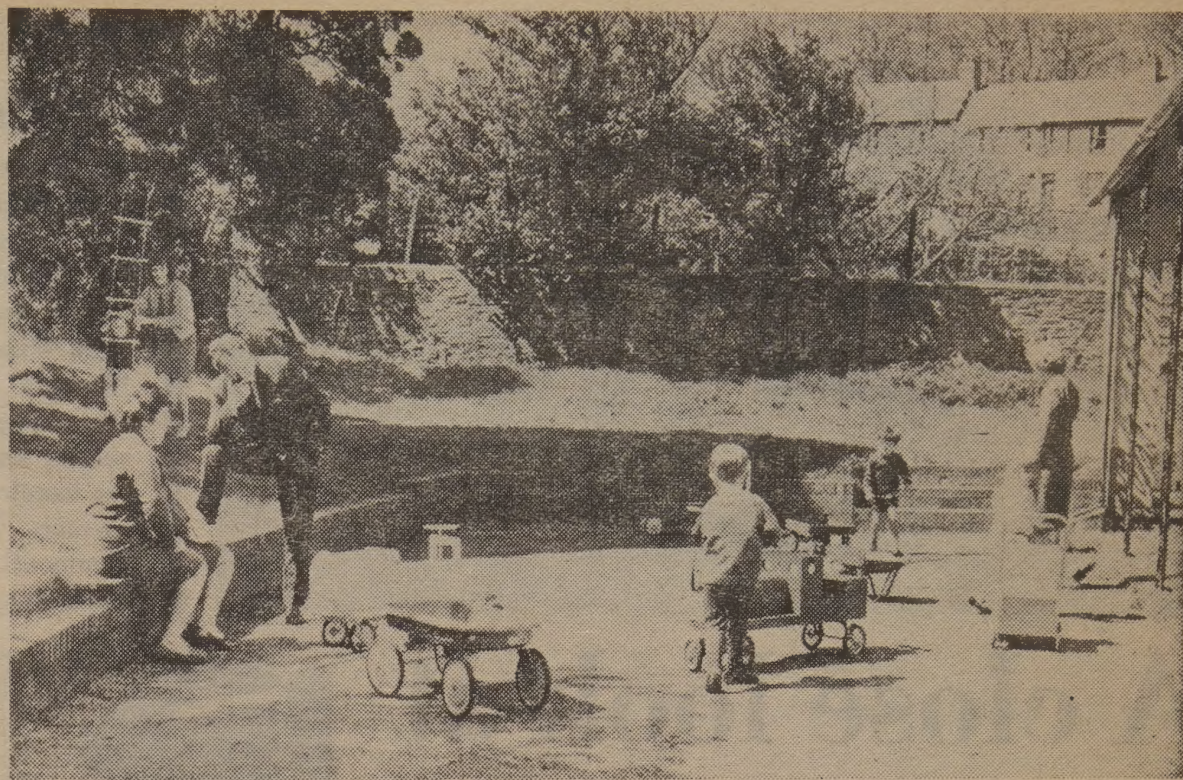
## Clinging

We had found that the remaining children, particularly the under fives, and those who had lost brothers or sisters, were very much over protected and they themselves were saying "I'm not going to school — the school blew down and killed my brother."

Their mothers were clinging to them, not letting them out of their sight in case they were hurt. They became in a way more precious, but at the same time rejected — shut out by the wall of grief felt by their parents.

So the play group was established using the public health clinic as premises and money from the Save the Children Fund for equipment.

Organised by Dr. Mary Essex, mothers ran it and



The play group, one of the co-operative efforts to emerge following the disaster. It was a complete success and still survives today.

staffed it themselves, and it was found to be a great help, both for mothers and children.

A later involvement from the now Co-ordinating Group, was a conference held in Merthyr which was attended by members of the local authority heads of departments, and councillors and members of the Parents' and Residents' Association, and the Fund Committee.

And out of this conference there resulted a meeting in Aberfan involving people from every known group in the village.

The type of questions posed were: "Does what the world think of us matter? What should be our image? What sort of place do we want this to be for our children? Have the Churches a part to play? What battles remain for us when the

tips are to be removed?"

And the official report of the conference related that "the disaster was now making us bigger, and binding us together in some mysterious way. There is a stronger community feeling than previously existed... a village beginning to live again, re-united in memory, anxious to reconstruct physically, morally and spiritually, exuding an aura of hope, not only for ourselves but for anyone facing the same sort of tragic problem."

## The tips

The participants felt satisfaction and relief that at last they were able to speak freely what was in their minds without being shouted at or having their emotions disturbed. It was resolved that an umbrella association should be set up involving as many people and groups as possible, and the Community Association was later started.

Another important group with which I became involved in a small way was the mothers' group. This was set up by the bereaved mothers, and here they could laugh and cry together without an "audience."

At the end of the first year a service unit was set up in a caravan as a result of money sent from the Welsh churches in Toronto. The caravan was called Ty Toronto, and was staffed by the Reverend E. Jones (Secretary of the Council of Churches for Wales) and his wife.

Another fascinating aspect of my work was with the Tip Removal Committee. The removal of the tips became a vital issue which, after a great deal of difficulty, was brought to a satisfactory conclusion.

Miss Davey ended her talk on a note of happiness and hope. She told of one mother who had lost her child, and had since applied to adopt one. "She has now adopted twins," she said, "and the whole village has adopted them, too."

## Just three of the many reasons for selecting Carters equipment

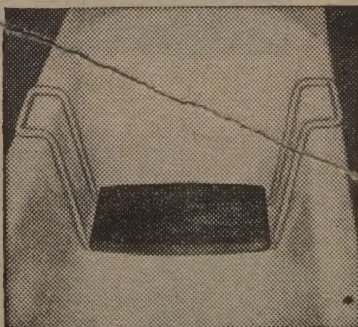


**1 Carters experience.**  
Carters have for many years taken the lead in supplying items to aid the disabled. Experienced staff work in close co-operation with medical personnel in Hospitals, Welfare Organisations and Private Practice. The result is an extensive range of equipment which meets the needs of patients requiring physical medicine or rehabilitation.

**2 Carters aids are adaptable.**  
Every item is especially designed for its purpose. Adaptable to meet varied requirements and designed to give lasting, reliable service.

**3 Carters use only the finest materials.**  
Carters have pursued a consistent policy of using the finest materials and the most modern manufacturing methods. This ensures an excellent product at a competitive price.

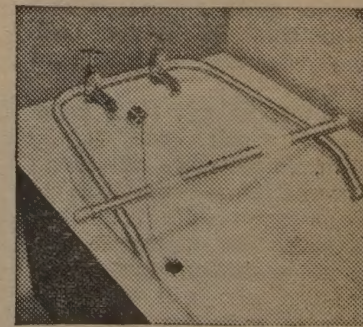
Everest & Jennings Wheelchair 8U20/0524VL  
Fitted with specially designed handrims which help to overcome difficulties of wheelchair patients who suffer from arthritic conditions.



**Simplex Bath Seat C412**  
This aid adapts to the bath to help those patients who find difficulty getting into or out of the bath. Rubber covered rests prevent scratching of bath sides.



**Raised Toilet Seat C457**  
Made in hard wearing polypropylene. Increases toilet height by approx 6". Can be cleaned with boiling water.



**Instant Bath Rail C439**  
A chromium plated Bath Rail which is adjustable to any bath width. Fitted with rubber tips to avoid scratching the bath.

Please send the following illustrated literature:

☐ Bathroom and Toilet Aids  
☐ Wheelchairs  
Please tick item(s) required

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

S.N.5

**CARTERS (J&A) Ltd**



65 Wigmore Street,  
London W1H 0EL  
Tel: 01-486 3835

## EMPLOYMENT NEWS

**JANET THOMSON** from Bucklebury, nr. Reading is now working as a clerk in the accounting department of the Southern Electricity Board in Newbury.

**DAVID TOWERS** from Rochdale is doing warehouse work for a firm of woollen manufacturers.

**SALLY WASHBOURNE** from Woodbridge has a new job as a comptometer operator in Norwich.

**COLIN WEBSDELL** from Diss is working at Fords Farm Implement Factory near Norwich.

**DAVID WHITEHEAD** from Rochdale who trained at Lancaster is working locally as a press operator for Messrs. Kenwell Electrical Ltd.

**GRAHAM ALLINSON** from Halifax who trained at Lan-

caster is doing packing and assembly work for Dixons.

**DAVID BAKER** from Magor who trained at Sherrards is working at Santon Ltd. in Newport.

**PHILIP BERESFORD** from Colchester who trained at Sherrards has been working for some time as a telephone operator at Rodex Ltd.

**COLIN BRADSHAW** from Aylesbury who trained at Sherrards is now employed as a drilling operator by Electro-Power Gears Ltd.

**STEPHEN BUCKTIN** from Hull who trained at Lancaster is employed as a clerk in the Plant Hire Department of Messrs. Spooner Ltd.

**CHARLES CAMERON** from Settle who trained at Lancaster is employed as a temporary clerk in the Engineer-

ing Section of the Lancaster Training Centre.

**KATHLEEN FITZPATRICK** from Higham has changed her job and is now working at Remploy in Wakefield.

**COLIN BYRON HARRIES** from Llanelli who trained at Sherrards is now employed as a machine operator.

**NICHOLAS JENNINGS** from Totteridge has been working for some time at M.T. Dart Co. (Games) Ltd. at Barnet.

**JOHN CLIFFORD JONES** from Manchester is working as a messenger for Messrs. Mather & Platt Ltd.

**TONY JONES** from Blaen who recently completed a course of Further Education at Dene Park is working in the despatch department of a photographic firm.





## GETTING DOWN TO CASES...

An unassuming report on a worthwhile project undertaken by school pupils has recently been produced. It is an account of Wanstead High School's "Aid for the Disabled" project in which the youngsters' talents are solving knotty problems for the handicapped. We publish extracts here, with comments from some of those concerned.

PETER FINLAY:

It's dead simple really. How do you keep a child's foot at right-angles to its leg on a tricycle pedal? We spent ages on it — even eventually giving several unhelpful comments on adapting children's legs rather than tricycles. But this piston idea — it came to me in a flash. And it worked.

However, children with cerebral palsy and malformed

# Even skivers for it worthwhile

feet still couldn't keep them on the pedals, so the therapeutic exercise hadn't quite materialised.

JUDY BARBER:

The heel section of a roller skate was the answer, and we attached these to the pedals. We wanted to secure the child's foot, but were worried because an ordinary leather strap takes a long time to undo if a child wants to get off a bike in a hurry, so we used "Velcro" instead, which is much easier to unfasten.

DOUGLAS SELWAY:

The tricycle idea was fantastic. The appeal went out in Assembly first for old tricycles, then for old roller skates. Slowly, quite a sizeable store mounted... The Ethel Davis School had originally intended to buy new tricycles; but with the money we saved them, they were able to buy instead a specially adapted typewriter for a girl who found it impossible to write, she's so unco-ordinated in her movements. Virtually we killed two birds with one stone.

arthritis. She couldn't turn on or adjust the control of her gas fire. We fitted a kind of door handle turner to replace the original knob.

Wanstead receives masses of requests for such jobs — mostly "one-off" jobs — from the Welfare Department of Rebridge Borough Council, from the Ethel Davis School for Handicapped Children, from the Woodman Path Unit for autistic children and from Faircross Special School.

DAVID CLARK:

The girl's lack of co-ordination was so severe that she couldn't apply any significant pressure with her hands at any point... So we obtained a teleprinter which works on touch control only, and over it we fixed a grid to ensure the depression of only one key at a time.

We also adapted a television tube to produce a spot on the screen adjustable to any of 20 positions by using a simple lever switch... so that the girl could attempt some basic communication by visual means.

ALAIN HEAD:

I was more than a little dubious when asked to make a special lavatory seat for a disabled boy. When it was all finished, I think we were pleased with it. We had enjoyed ourselves buying materials and making the seat, and were now doubly satisfied in that not only had we produced a reasonable piece of work, but we had helped make a handicapped child's life a little happier.

## Girls, too

Girls from Wanstead have also done a considerable amount of work... Five have made and completely fitted a doll's house. But the largest feminine effort has been in soft toy-making.

GILLIAN SMITH:

The project, limited in 1966 to the upper school, was extended in 1967 to employ the unbounded enthusiasm and talent of the junior school. At lunch-times, the needlework room became a hive of industry with amazing productivity. The pile of presents grew daily, and it was a hard job at the end to stop the production line...

PETER COPPENDALE:

The children at Faircross loved using the pottery wheel, but often found it difficult because the treadle bar was placed so near the ground. Two of us brought the whole treadle section back to Wanstead and fitted in another crossbar higher up.

STEPHEN ACKERMAN:

There's a platform on which the children are lowered into

# A close look at the design of furniture

DR. P. PADANYI, ex-lawyer, ex-professional cellist, refugee from the 1956 Hungarian rising and now craft teacher at the Thomas Delarue School for spastics, visited the College's Tea Centre exhibition in October 1967, and by chance,

and John Barden, Bob Briggs, David Pun, John Pead and John Simpson worked on classroom desks and storage, the art and craft room tables and the typing table. All these students were able to pay regular visits to the School where they carried

By ROBIN WADE

The author is Senior Lecturer in the School of Three-dimensional Design at Ravensbourne College of Art.

set in motion a most fruitful collaboration between the School of Three-dimensional Design, the Delarue School and The Spastics Society.

He did not know at the time that we were trying to devise a realistic brief for our students which would give an opportunity to become personally involved in the problems of the physically handicapped. We exchanged visits to our respective schools and very soon we realised that the Delarue School presented a series of design problems that were capable of being solved within the context of our design course.

The Delarue School at Tonbridge is one of the Spastics Society's boarding schools. In many ways, it is the Society's showpiece—fine site and grounds, new buildings, excellent staff-to-pupil ratio with pupils of the highest I.Q.

## Unstable

Some of the furniture and equipment, though new, is badly designed. The standard school desk in use is unstable, quite dangerous and adjustable in height (one way!) by means of a hand saw.

The art room and craft room tables which have to be adjusted daily are raised and lowered on no fewer than six legs—each needing a monkey wrench. The typing department—essential for many spastics who will never be able to write by hand—has extremely heavy electric typewriters.

Exercise frames in the physiotherapy department's swimming pool are excessively heavy and hamper the patient's movements.

It was these items that the first and second year students of that time decided to tackle.

One group—Peter Burne-Jones and George Pacheco worked on the exercise frame and the typing table. Another two groups — Derek Abbott, Martin Lee, Steve Symes,

out basic dimensional research and discussed problems with staff and pupils. In the case of the exercise frames, one of the students did some of his research in swimming togs with the physiotherapists.

## Favourable

Mr. Nicholas Elwes, The Spastic Society's Aids and Appliances Officer is giving us much of his time; his services as a friend, critic and expert adviser are much appreciated.

Prototypes of the furniture and equipment were made by the students themselves with great enthusiasm and we all have the satisfaction of hearing favourable reports from the Delarue School where field tests are progressing.

The furniture is being shown on the Society's stand at the International Hospitals Equipment exhibition in June and it can also be seen at the College's Diploma Show this year.

Discussions have already begun with a manufacturer; there is a certainty of at least one item being produced in the near future.

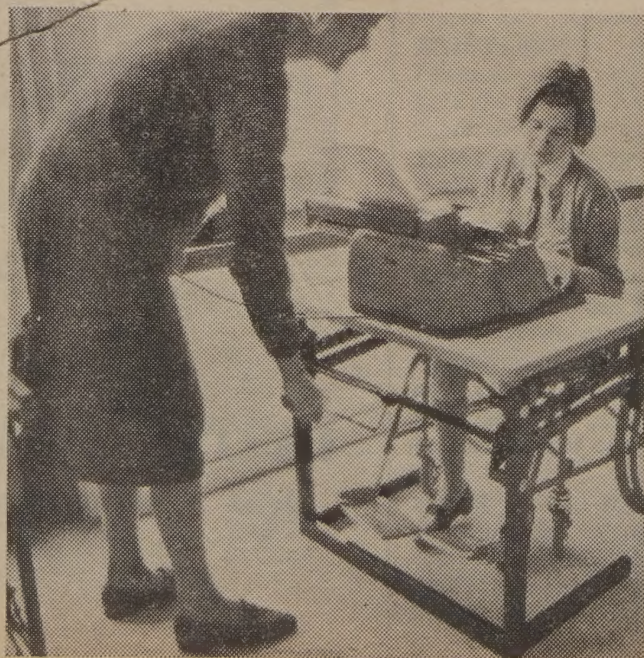
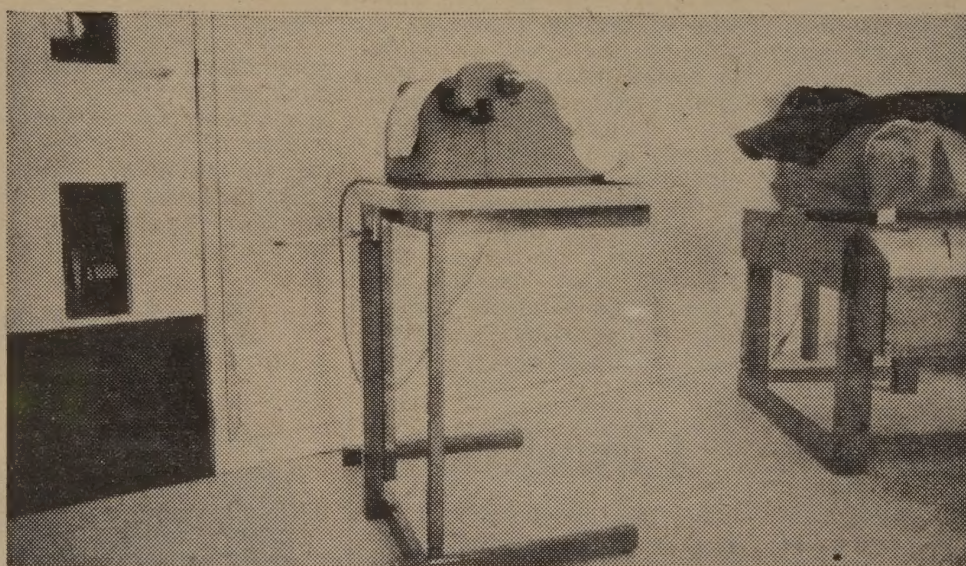
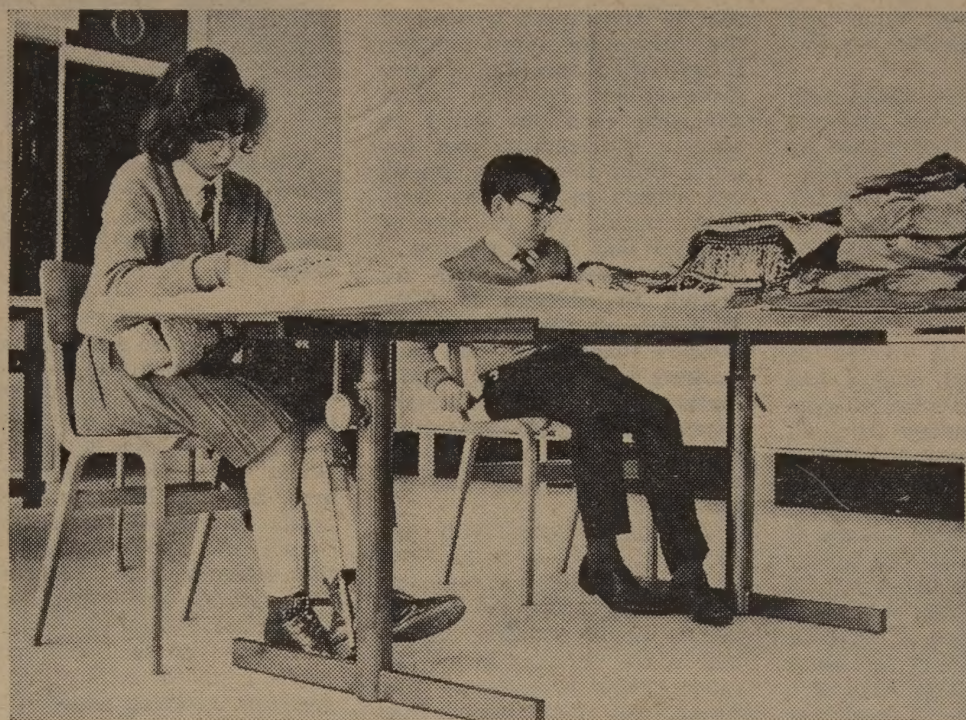
The three-dimensional Design School is now represented on a regular Spastics Society Committee, which amongst other subjects is formulating a further series of actual design briefs, one of which will become the subject for a post-graduate year, which is being sponsored and financed by the Society.

Top two pictures: views of a table which adjusts separately at each end simply by pulling out the lever and lifting the table top. It is extremely rigidly built and will not tip.

Other pictures, from top: One of the two successful designs of typewriter tables particularly suitable for wheelchairs to get underneath and easily adjustable without removing the typewriter.

Desk designed with heaps of leg room which also can be quickly altered for a left handed person. It is adjustable for height.

An ingeniously designed typewriter table, here being adjusted,



SOUTHAMPTON Work Centre will soon add hand-made pottery to the wide range of goods which it produces for sale on the open market.

The scheme first started early this year when a young temporary helper at the centre begged some clay from the nearby Southampton College of Art so that the spastic employees could try their hand at something different.

These preliminary trials made them very keen to learn properly, but the work centre committee could not afford to employ an extra member of staff to teach the subject.

However, by this time, Mr.

David Clements, head of the pottery department at the art college, had taken an interest in the centre. He not only went out of his way to help with advice and equipment, but inspired his evening class students with his own enthusiasm for the scheme.

## One-handed

Twelve housewife students who were all free in the afternoons volunteered to help the work centre get its own pottery under way. They have organised a rota so that at least two are on duty each afternoon. This gives all the employees a

chance to take a turn with handling the clay.

"At the moment it's just occupational therapy for them," said Mr. Clements. "After all, we've only been doing it for about eight weeks, but some of them are quite good and I'm sure we shall soon be throwing pots that are good enough to sell."

Mr. R. D. Husband, the Work Centre Manager, is thrilled with the venture because it means that even the most heavily handicapped members can take part. He proudly showed off an ashtray which had been made for him by a boy who had never made anything in his life before.

# Going to pot in Southampton



# found nwhile

t turn on  
of her gas  
d of door  
place the

es masses  
ch jobs —  
bs — from  
riment of  
a Council,  
vis School  
Children,  
Path Unit  
n and from  
school.

co-ordin-  
that she  
significant  
nds at any  
ed a tele-  
on touch  
ver it we  
de the de-  
key at a

television  
oot on the  
any of  
a simple  
at the girl  
basic com-  
means.

little dub-  
o make a  
for a dis-  
was all fin-  
e pleased  
joyed our-  
erials and  
were now  
at not only  
reasonable  
t we had  
handicapped  
appier.

too  
instead have  
considerable  
... Five  
completely  
use. But the  
effort has  
making.

ed in 1966  
was exten-  
loy the un-  
and talent  
At lunch-  
work room  
dustry with  
y. The pile  
ily, and it  
the end to  
line. ...  
LE:  
Faircross  
tery wheel,  
difficult be-  
was placed  
Two of us  
readle sec-  
instead and  
crossbar

MAN:  
n on which  
wered into

the swimming pool. It's quite safe, but as there are no supports, the children often feel they could easily fall off. We have fitted some webbing straps from the side of the platform to the top of the hoist for the children to hold on to so that they feel secure.

## MARIAN LATCHMAN:

Each school or body sends in requests or pleas which are noted at the meeting of the Aid for the Disabled Committee. Some of them are simply not qualified to cope with... Some we reject because we know they can be obtained easily on the open market and our workers can be better employed on more demanding jobs. But most of them we accept.

## Bills . . .

Little bills for nails, screws metal and paint mount up to horrifying sums. Pupils raise the necessary money themselves. Here, those unable or inclined to design or manufacture aids really can help... After a letter of inquiry from the Good Neighbour's Trust of Bristol, we put to them the case for the project. For the erection in the school grounds of a prototype workshop and Design Centre for educational and a charitable need, the Trust was prepared to make us a grant of £15,000.

## MARILYN ROSEN:

I remember the summons to the Hall at 12.15. Although it meant a quarter of an hour of lessons, I think most of us supposed that we were going to be reprimanded for behaviour at the bus stop... And then, there was the headmaster accepting a slip of paper saying it was worth £10,000 and that there was another worth £5,000 to come.

## CHARLES ADAMS:

The promise of a new workshop was just what we wanted. It acted partly as a reward for what we had done so far, and partly as a stimulus to greater future efforts.

## END PIECE

The constructive efforts in every aspect of the Aid for the Disabled Project is regarded throughout the school as anything but charity. Simply, it has captured our imagination; because of the immediacy of the problems presented to us we don't have the time to consider such vague and burdensome terms as "social responsibility", and thus we have gone far in eliminating the "do-gooding" attitude that had marred our charitable attempts in the past.

# mpton — in the nicest way

turn with  
t it's just  
for them,"  
"After all,  
ing it for  
out some of  
d and I'm  
e throwing  
enough to

, the Work  
is thrilled  
because it  
the most  
members  
e proudly  
ray which  
im by a boy  
e anything

It is certainly amazing to see the way in which people with only the limited use of one hand can manage to knead the clay, roll it out with rolling pins and press it into moulds.

The College has loaned the centre a spare potters' wheel to help the workers become familiar with all aspects of the craft. However, it is doubtful whether this will often be used as it needs very skilful co-ordinating of hands and foot.

Instead, they use moulds or do freehand modelling. Already some interesting shapes have been produced by this method and, finished with a greyish-blue glaze, they have an attractively chunky look.



Picture Courtesy "THE TIMES"

## Interesting people

# The growth of compassion in our world

Sir John Wolfenden

Interview by Jack Gowers

THERE WE WERE—fifteen people who hardly knew each other. We were there to talk about two controversial and, you may think, rather distasteful subjects. I said right at the start that I had no idea what we were going to report at the end; but whatever it is that we report, I told them, we can fairly say that it will be unwelcome to, and objected to, by roughly 50 per cent of the population.

We can't win, from the point of view of producing something with which everybody is going to agree; so let's

forget about that. We are not here as experts; we are a jury. It's our business to come to conclusions on the evidence that we are given, and we have got to do it objectively, dispassionately and without looking over our shoulders all the time at what the Press or anybody else is going to say about it.

## SOME PRINCIPLES

And, secondly, although technically we are reporting to the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Scotland, I would like to feel that what we produce in the end is something that the ordinary intelligent person can read and appreciate and form a judgment on.

That is where we started; and I wanted also to try to get a situation in which we had some principles from which we could deduce particular recommendations. I think we did that.

Nobody has ever yet been able, in the twelve years since then, to refute the logic of the foundations of the Report. People said from time to time: "Well, you were very tough on the girls and very gentle on the boys," not taking in that what we recommended was in both cases based on the same principle — that personal morality is a personal, private matter. It is not the concern of the criminal law.

## TOO BAD . . .

I don't know how familiar you were with the streets of London before that date. At any rate, the streets of London are a good deal more satisfactory to walk about now than they were then. And when people say: "All you have done is drive them off the streets and drive them underground and drive them into strip-tease joints" — all right. Too bad, if people like that sort of thing, that's where they'll find it. But they won't find it now openly displayed in the streets of London.

From time to time, people say we were too gentle about homosexual men. Again, some people say that this is just another indication of the slackening of morals, and that the permissive society is getting out of hand. And before you know where you are, connections are made between what we recommend about homosexual behaviour between men on the one hand, and, say, hooliganism in breaking up railway trains on the other, as if it were all part of the same generally permissive and "lack-of-discipline" attitude on the part of the so-called liberals.

## NOT IMPROVED

But I don't really think that is true. I think that what is really much more likely is that there were some people, and an increasing number of people, who were concerned with what they would call "injustice to minorities."

Whether you like it or not, there is this minority. You can't abolish them; they are there, and the way they behave in their minority way was not improved by the law as it then stood. They were in constant fear of persecution and prosecution, and inevitably, therefore, got together as a hard-core minority.

I would have thought that the sensible thing for us to do

# THE BANDS IN THE SPECTRUM

WHY, AFTER A LIFE spent mainly with young people in schools and universities and youth clubs, should I in my old age come and decay in a museum? Well, my children got it right first time. They said: "Oh, well—we have known for years you were a museum piece but we didn't know everybody else knew!"

Actually, it isn't as different as you might think. When you are in a school or in a university you have got an institution; you have the background of it with its buildings and everything else, and at the same time you have got a procession of young people passing through it.

That's not really very different from the British Museum. Here you have this remarkable building, and all sorts of outlying places where things have to be stored. There are priceless collections of all kinds of things.

You know that we get by law a copy of every book that is printed in this country, and as a matter of interest the books that we get under the Copyright Act require in additional shelving two miles a year.

There is the background; and the use that is made of that background you can see if you look out of the window. Before the place opens, there is a queue of people wanting to get in. Whenever I look out of the window, the first thing I see is the back end of a school bus, and there are five of those at any one moment through the day. So there is an endless stream of people coming in; in fact, it's just short of two million a year coming here, apart from all those who go to other parts of the museum.

# The backbone of it all

When people say: "Are you there in order to preserve antiquity or are you there in order that the great British public shall see things?" it is not a question of either this or that; it's both this and that.

In fact, there are five or six bands in this spectrum. To begin with, we have got on the spot, in the Keepers, Deputy Keepers and Assistant Keepers, what you might regard as the staff of the most extensive post-graduate university in the world. They are all world experts.

Then you have got the scholars who come to work with them from all over the world. Then you have the band of people who are themselves doing private research, not necessarily academic people, people who want to read books that they can't get anywhere else. And you have got the people who come and use it as if it were a vast public reference library.

Then you get the ordinary British public, the backbone of the whole thing—after all, they pay for it. And there are also day by day, endless parties of schoolchildren coming in.

So you will see that the essence of this place is the people in it; the people who permanently work in it; the people who visit it for purposes of scholarship; and the normal visitor. The fundamental thing is that here are these priceless things, quite unassessable in value, and they fail in large part in their function unless people come and use them and see them.

Somebody said when I came here that this was a nice comfortable sinecure for a hack who had to be put out to grass for the last five years of his working life in order to get a pension. Well, if anybody thinks this is a sinecure they had better come and sit here for a morning. You never know what's going to happen on this desk. And that's fine . . .

## For investiture

The use of moulds does not mean stereotyped designs. Decoration is added to the basic oval, oblong or triangular shapes by means of paper cut-outs which are removed when the first slip-coat of glaze is dry, leaving the off-white clay to show through an attractive pattern.

There have been many enquiries about the pottery from members of the public and already, with an eye to the souvenir market in this investiture year, Southampton has started turning out commemorative ashtrays decorated with the Prince of Wales feathers.

Both Mr. Husband and Mr. Clements feel confident that they can build up the pottery into an economic proposition, and it will obviously mean a great deal to the more severely handicapped employees at the centre if they can see their work actually going away to be sold.

ANNE PLUMMER

In this exclusive interview, the Chairman of the committee which produced the controversial Report on homosexual offences and prostitution in 1957 looks back on its findings — and speaks of his new life as Director of The British Museum.

with minorities — racial, sexual or, if you like, physically handicapped minorities — is to absorb them and to give them the kind of life which, within their unfortunate limits, they can live like ordinary people.

I very clearly remember one person saying on a Brains Trust years ago — when he was asked if there wasn't a shocking decay in the 20th century, of ordinary civilised behaviour as between individuals and as between nations — that on the contrary, he thought that the most striking feature of the late 19th century and the first half of the 20th century was the enormous growth in compassion.

I think it is true to say that the way in which we judge a civilisation is by the amount of time and trouble and energy and money it spends on those who might be regarded from a strictly clinical, eugenic point of view as being the handicapped, the outcast, the failures, the incomplete of that generation and civilisation.

We protest today and think minority persecution wrong and unjust very much more than people used to, because people nowadays realise what it means, partly because of much easier communications.

I am sure that the great outcry there is about violence of all sorts is, paradoxically enough, rather a good sign — there is an outcry about it, whereas 100 years ago and still more, 500 years ago, nobody would have bothered.

I think it is a bit mistaken to regard all these things as permissive, or part of a decline or decadence of society, as if you were unloosening all the ties there are and therefore are rushing straight down a steep place into the sea.

It could be argued the other way on; that what has happened in the past in so many of these instances is that there has been a quite unjustifiable constriction by the law of the

lives of people; of homosexual men, or, as another example, of someone in a mental hospital, who was treated with the greatest severity and constriction, physical as well as any other, in days gone by.

But this is the way I would look at it — that it is leading to the positive act of bringing all the afflicted minorities out from under constrictions, and positively giving them the opportunity of better, fuller and more complete lives. I would look at it that way round, rather than from the point of view of loosening standards or loosening ways of behaviour and patterns of mores.

Of course, inevitably you get exaggerated manifestations of it in young people, because they are sizzling and bubbling and want to do things differently from the way they have been done before. People looking at some of the young sights in Piccadilly might well wonder if this is the permissive society; but there is always a generation gap.

## THE GULF

It is true that there is a generation gap at the moment — and the sickening thing about a generation gap is that it sometimes becomes a gulf across which the generations exchange nothing but abuse — there always has been such a gap. But it is a mistake to make a bogey of it; it's a mistake to exaggerate it; I think it's a mistake to pretend it's not there.

I am quite sure that, if one can generalise about the young at all, they are people who feel this compassion very much more than their elders do and some of the most unpromising looking young people are very often the most helpful and useful in this kind of way.

All this sort of thing was not going on in my young days the way it is now.

## Letters to the Editor

The Editor will welcome readers' comments on this or any other matter published in "Spastics News," however controversial. Letters should be brief and relevant. Those from spastics are paid for at 10s 6d each.



Post-graduate students at Hebburn Technical College, John Cully (right), Terence Elliott (centre) and Geoffrey Little, with a pneumatically-powered machine they have designed which can make four coat-hangers a minute at the Sunderland Work Centre. Their employers, A. Reyrolle and Co. Ltd. have presented it to Sunderland Spastics Society. (Photo: Newcastle Chronicle).



# Where do you come from Mr. Sarstedt?

**POP TALK**  
with

**DAVE CASH**

IT ALL STARTED when "Where Do You Go To, My Lovely?" shot up the chart and stayed at No. 1 for five weeks. From then on, Peter Sarstedt became the most sought-after new wave pop personality. Following the impressive success of his first LP entitled "Peter Sarstedt," the 27-year-old singer/writer is on his way to launching his second this summer.

Unruffled by the sudden hustle and bustle around him, he views his success rather coolly. "I feel that I've made it the second time round. I seem to have lived this experience once before when I was touring all over Europe with my elder brother, Eden Kane."

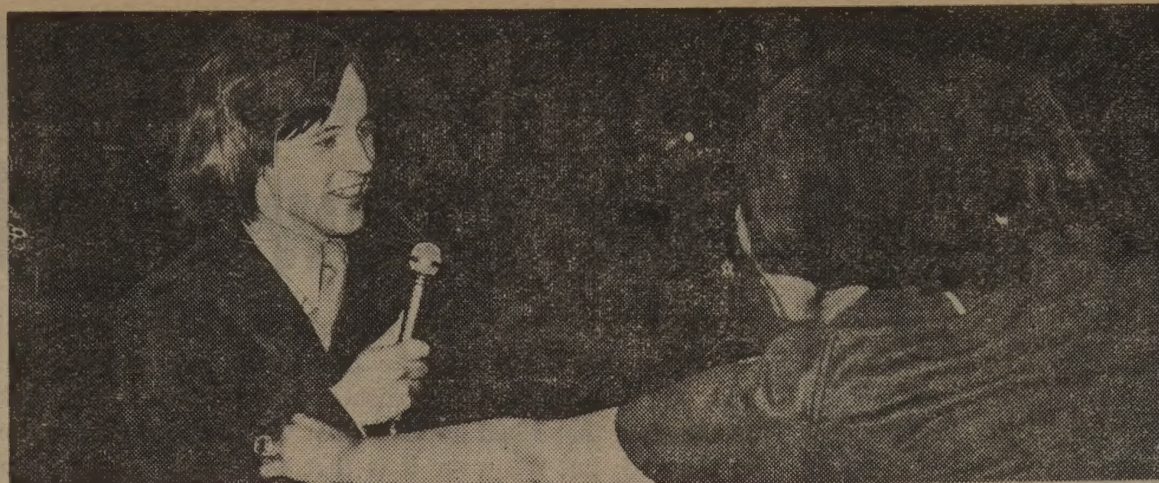
**BORN IN INDIA** of English parents, Peter was raised in a family full of musical talent—his late father, a fine musician, his younger brother Clive, another pop star and his sister who toys with a guitar. On leaving school he played the tea chest bass in Eden Kane's band, doing the skiffle bit.

## Inside his head

Then he went on his magical mystery tour around Europe—(magical, because it was a new experience and a mystery because he lived from day to day and hand to mouth). He eventually rejoined his brother as the band's electric guitarist until he went busking with Don Partridge on the left bank of Paris. Later, he wandered off to Copenhagen where he was inspired to write a series of songs including "Where Do You Go To, My Lovely?"

**MOODY BEHIND** his "Omar Sharif" moustache, Peter is probably one of the few prolific song writers who files away 300-odd numbers in his head. He prefers photographic memory to music sheets. His songs are both sensitive and tongue-in-cheek. He is sometimes compared with Dylan whom he admires ("Dylan's are the only songs I would sing other than my own"). But Peter has a distinctive and refreshing style of his own. Although he puts poetry to music, his songs are not folksy. He is too sophisticated to be commercial and yet he has the magical quality of beckoning his audience to follow without having to understand.

Like Dustin Hoffman (The Graduate) who heads the new wave of anti-film stars, Peter Sarstedt is perhaps the first success story of the new anti-pop star.



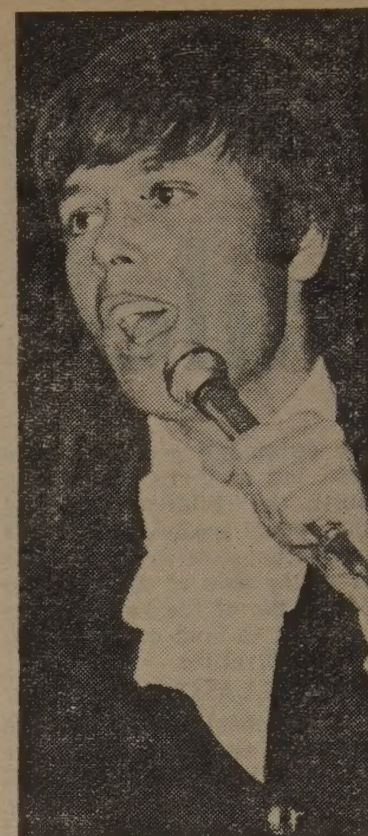
## STAR SHOW SPOT



Dave Dee, in his tereador's "Sult of Lights" and (right) Clodagh Rogers, in a sparkling mini-dress gave dazzling performances.



Among the many great performers at the Record Star Show at Wembley organised by David Jacobs for S.O.S. in conjunction with the Daily Express were (above, left) Andy Fairweather-Low of Amen Corner (right) Cliff Richard (below) Hank Marvin. Pictures by courtesy of the Daily Express.



## Easter Bride at Ponds Home

**TAKE A PERFECT** spring day, a sprig of orange blossom, a pretty girl in white lace and a nervous young man. Stir well and you have an Easter Wedding.

Such was the case at All Saints Church, Seer Green, Bucks., when a girl in a wheelchair, Pauline Hibberd, married her spastic boy friend, Nigel Morrow.

The couple, who have known each other for six years, live at Ponds Home, near Beaconsfield. For weeks, the staff at the home have been preparing for the big day, making sure that nothing could go wrong.

And nothing did. In the words of Major S. V. Cleaver, the warden: "The wedding went off splendidly. They couldn't have had a nicer day."

### A NEW HOME

After a reception at Ponds, attended by more than 60 guests, Pauline and Nigel moved into their new home at a newly completed hostel, which has been designed to cater for married spastics and is only the second project of its kind in Britain.

**Footnote:** The love story of Pauline and Nigel has generated nation-wide interest. News of their impending marriage appeared in most national newspapers and in other newspapers up and down the country. And on Easter Saturday, when the wedding took place, a battery of Press photographers were there to snap the happy couple.



A lovely wedding... The bride and groom with their attendants after the service. (Photo, courtesy of Middlesex County Press).

### Paris in Spring — in Hitchin

Three hundred people attended the 12th annual ball of the Hitchin and Letchworth Spastics Society. It was their most successful yet.

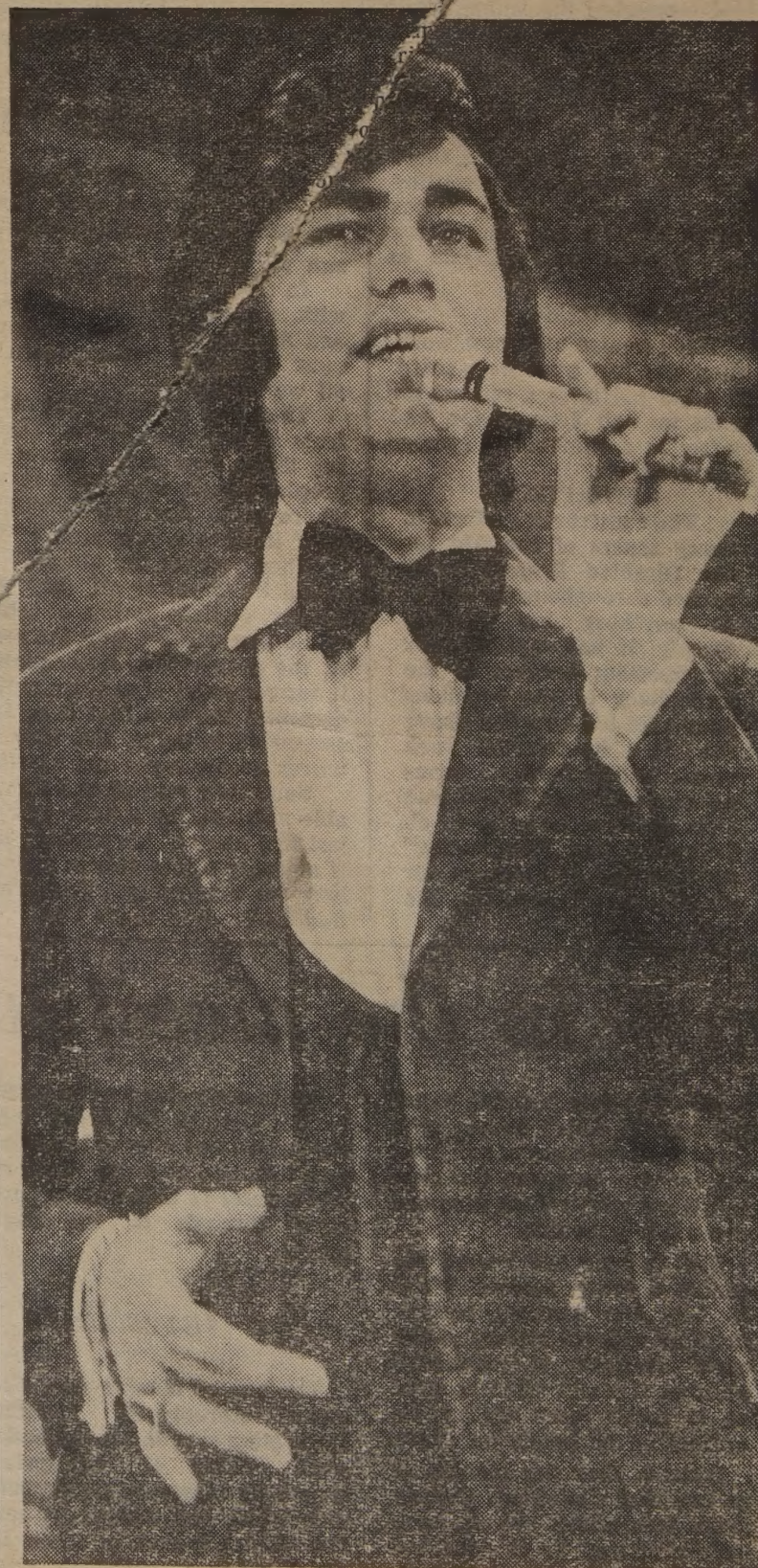
The band, cabaret and decorations of Hitchin Town Hall had a French flavour, illustrating the theme of the ball, which was "Paris in the Spring."

## Judy wouldn't wed unless...

IN THE MARCH issue of "Spastics News," we told the story of spastic Pat Peatfield, who cashed all her savings to see Judy Garland at "The Talk of the Town," and was afterwards befriended by the star.

As a sequel, Pat was invited to Judy's wedding. Micky Deane, the bridegroom, telephoned Pat at the Woodford Hostel where she lives, and said that Judy wouldn't marry him unless Pat was present at the ceremony.

The next day a car arrived to take Pat to Chelsea Register Office. After the ceremony she was given flowers from the bridal bouquet and drank the couple's health in champagne. She was also kissed by best man, singer Johnny Ray.



JOHN ROWLES (photo courtesy Monitor Press Features Ltd.).



# THE REAL TEST FOR BRITAIN

THE TEST for Britain was whether we could use our free institutions efficiently enough to build a prosperous and a good society in which the strong help the weak, said the Speaker of the House of Commons, Dr. Horace King, when he opened the Portsmouth and District Spastics Society's new work centre at Warren Avenue.

It was a good society when those to whom God had given a strong physique helped those whom God, for some strange reason, had not endowed in the same way.

"This is why I would go anywhere to a gathering like this where the parents of handicapped young people have worked, not only for their own child but for their neighbour's child," he said. "If only the love that is shown by the mother of a handicapped child were shown by every mother of every normal child, there would be very little juvenile delinquency today. And every mother to whom God has given a normal child ought to be down on their knees thanking God."

## Very proud

Perhaps the most difficult problem of all was the provision of employment for the handicapped person. And one of the greatest gifts we could give him was to let him know that he was earning his own living; that he too was contributing in his own way to the well-being of society.

"So I say to those who are here, working in this workshop, that we are very proud of all you have done and of all that happens here."

Dr. King then officially opened the premises, unveiling

a plaque commemorating the event. He congratulated all the parents and others who had taken part in what was a wonderful achievement, the translation of a dream into bricks and mortar.

The proceedings had earlier been opened by Mr. E. R. G. Keeping, chairman of the local group who introduced the Deputy Lord Mayor of Portsmouth, Coun. Major D. D. Connors. He recalled that when Coun. Connors had dug the first spit of earth 16 months previously, he was not satisfied to use the conventional spade, but had arrived for the ceremony with a mechanical shovel. "He really let rip," said Mr. Keeping.

Coun. Connors was a vice-president of the Society and Mr. Keeping said that they wished to offer him this title for all time, because he was really a part of the Society.

In his address of welcome, Coun. Connors spoke of the workshop as "another wonderful amenity for Portsmouth." They had all worked very hard to build the centre and what they had done was to make Portsmouth a better place to live in especially for those who were less well off physically.

On behalf of the Society, Dr. King accepted a cheque given by Mr. and Mrs. Frost, proprietors of the Portsmouth model village, who present a cheque every year.

Mrs. King, who accompanied her husband at the ceremony, received a posy of flowers from Sheila Williams, one of the

## Speaker opens new centre

spastics at the centre.

Mr. Keeping, in proposing a vote of thanks to Dr. King, also expressed the society's gratitude to the general public for their support. "This is not the end of our dream," he said, "because we feel that from now on we should go on to another project, for residential care. This is our next ambition."

Seconding the vote of thanks, Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye Assistant Director (Services) of The Spastics Society, said that during the past six years, since his last visit to Portsmouth, some 1,000 to 1,200 places had been provided in work centres throughout the country, by local subscription and by local spastics societies.

## Outstripped

One of the most difficult problems facing all societies and certainly the Spastic Society itself was in deciding what could best be done in the future. Demands for services had an uncanny knack of changing. The function of the Society was to fill in the gaps, and the problem was in deciding just what that gap was and hoping that by the time they had taken steps to fill it, the gap was the same shape.

"The cost of doing what has to be done at this moment in this country for handicapped people far and away outstrips the money available to do it," he said, "and as long as this situation continues I am quite certain that there is going to be a need for such societies as the Spastics Societies to exist."



TV comedian Marty Feldman was one of the stars who played for a Show-Biz XI in a charity football match held at Luton. The game attracted a crowd of 5,000 and £250 was raised for the Lady Zia Wernher Centre for Spastic Children at Luton. (Photo, courtesy Echo and Post Ltd., Hemel Hempstead).

## Ely Hospital: Do you still care?

GRIM DETAILS about what went on at Ely Hospital, Cardiff were revealed in the report of the Howe Committee which investigated conditions there.

The facts have been widely promulgated and have produced a considerable public reaction.

Although Spastics News believes — and said in its Comment column last month — that "a massive rescue oper-

ation by the State is the only answer," to the basic problem, it agrees with Mr. Crossman that direct public involvement with mental hospitals, would do much to improve conditions.

On the question of sub-normality, The Spastics Society has never concerned itself exclusively with spastics but has campaigned across the whole front. As further evidence of its genuine concern, we launch a new money-raising competition, all the proceeds of which will this month be handed over to a responsible authority to be used for direct benefit of the patients at Ely Hospital, among whom, it is understood, are a number of spastics.

The Society appeals to everyone whose conscience was moved when the tragic report on Ely Hospital was published to attempt the contest on this page and to show, in this tangible way, that their concern is still alive.

## Hotel knocking £110 mark

Pierre the Clown, assisted by two seven-year-olds, Diane Dawson and Alison Ramsey, knocked over a beacon which realised £29 at the Clifton Hotel, York.

This brings to £109 the total collected during the 10 years that Mr. W. Dawson has been manager there.

## Urgent steps needed

MR LORING was quoted in The Guardian as saying: "We welcome the Minister's initiatives, but they only go a little way to meet what is required. We have demanded action to improve sub-normality hospitals for the last two years. It is a sad commentary upon the Government that it should take a tragic and sordid incident at a hospital to galvanise a Minister into action."

He believed that unless urgent steps were taken, the conditions in a number of these hospitals would deteriorate to "snake-pit" standards.

Mr. Crossman, Secretary of State for Social Services, is considering setting up an inspectorate system for hospitals as part of his plans for reform. And he plans to switch £500,000 to £1m. this year to hospitals for the mentally sub-normal.

## Director on the blackmail reaction

MR. JAMES LORING, Director of the Spastics Society, was widely quoted in the national press following Mr. Richard Crossman's revelations about the conduct of some staff at Ely Hospital, Cardiff

Mr. Loring who, as the Society's principal public spokesman on mental sub-normality, has spear-headed a long campaign to bring the true state of Britain's mental hospitals into the public eye, said in a statement: "Some of the reaction to this campaign demanding a new deal for patients in sub-normality hospitals can only be described as blackmail."

"I have been described as hysterical, a liar and unbalanced when I have described the grim conditions in some hospitals."

He could not accept the view of Mr. Crossman that one could not draw general conclusions about the hospital service from the inquiry at Ely Hospital.

"This is a comforting thought, but in my many visits to sub-normality hospitals, I have seen conditions that are gruesome, inhuman and utterly vile."

"I place the blame fairly and squarely on the complacency of people sitting on some hospital management committees and regional hospital boards."

## SUB-STANDARD

"If only all the members of these committees had banded together and vigorously protested about the institutions under their jurisdiction, changes would have been made long ago."

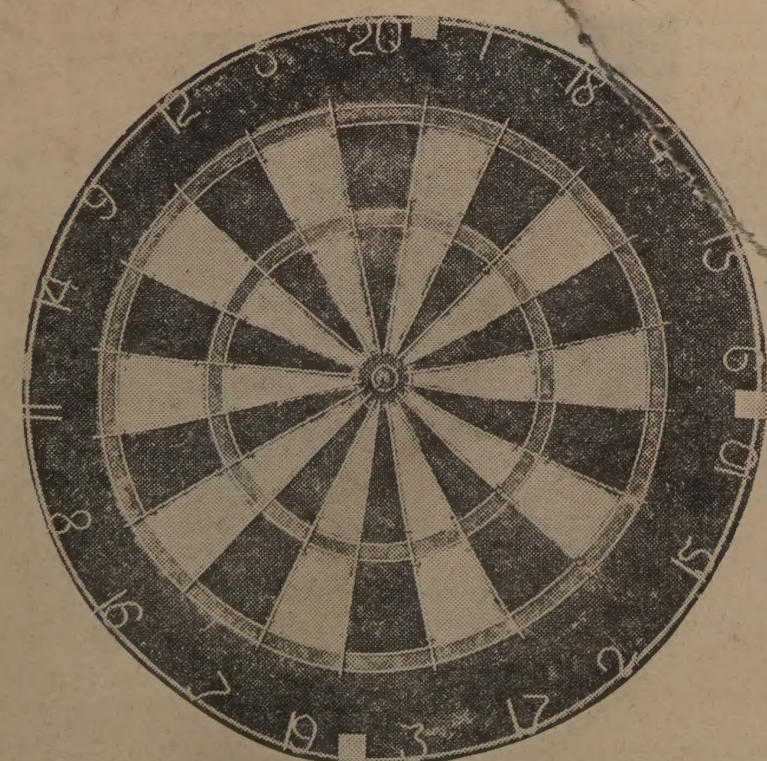
Britain's sub-normality hospitals had become dumping-grounds for unwanted people. Many were a blot on the public conscience.

Mr. Loring told the Sunday Telegraph: "Most of the cases of ill-treatment relate to the staff getting very weary and losing their tempers. . . . Some of the staff are sub-standard, people who are not very bright and are quick to lose their tempers. These are the staff a hospital would rather not have. But it's a case of Hobson's choice."

"Ill-treatment arises partly from the chores: getting the patients up, dressing them, feeding them and constantly watching them. With the best will in the world, even if you are an angel, you are going to get some short-comings."

"I know of patients being flung in the nude on tables and rough-handled while being washed. I know of children who are put in a queue when they are taken to the lavatory. When they are being potted they are treated as assembly lines."

## DARTPOINTS NO. 1. A fascinating New Contest with £50 TO BE WON!



It's fun — and it could win you this big cash prize. And all entry fees beyond the prize money this month will be used for the benefit of patients at Ely Hospital, Cardiff.

## What you have to do

At left, is a picture of a dartboard, and another taken at the moment the dart is released. Using your skill and judgment, try to pinpoint where the dart will land.

Mark an X on the large board, the centre of the cross coinciding with the point of the dart. Crosses must not overlap. We undertake that the fall of the dart thrown in the smaller picture has been accurately recorded and that the prize will go to the entry which, in

the opinion of a panel of judges, comes closest to the actual point of impact.

Fill in the coupon below, according to the number of attempts you have made. Make out cheques or postal orders (cash and stamps not accepted) to The Spastics Society, and send in your entry to Dartpoints No. 1, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1. Entries sent elsewhere will be disqualified. Result next month.

## RULES

1. All entries will be examined. The decision of the judges is final and no correspondence can be entered into. Proof of posting cannot be accepted as proof of delivery.
2. In the event that more than one entry is adjudged a winning one, the prize will be divided equally among winners.
3. No entry will be accepted from any member of the paid staff of The Spastics Society or their families. Voluntary workers are not, of course, excluded.

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

DARTPOINTS SPASTICS NEWS  
I agree to abide by the rules of the competition.

NAME: Mr./Mrs./Miss .....

ADDRESS .....

ATTEMPTS:	5 for	10 for	15 for	20 for	25 for	50 for
(Max. 50)	1s. 0.	1s. 6.	2s. 0.	2s. 6.	3s. 0.	5s. 0.

Crossed Cheque/P.O. No. \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

in payment for ..... attempts.

COMPETITION No. 1. Closing date, first post May 20.



# Put your best hand forward

THE WORLD is made for right-handed people, or so it has always seemed. It is only fairly recently that people have been allowed to be left-handed (my father was spanked for starting to learn to write with his left hand).

Throughout the centuries the odd-men-out have struggled in an alien world of right-handed tools and equipment, and been accused, unjustly, of clumsy incompetence.

## Sitting up

Right hemiplegics have also suffered, many of them deprived of what would have been their "good" hand anyway, and being further handicapped by aggressively awkward tools. Despair not! Help is at hand. A shop has been opened in London just for you.

Called "Anything Left-handed Limited," it is at 65, Beak Street, London, W.1.

## The village with a difference

AT THEIR monthly meeting in April, members of the Society's Social Work and Employment Department watched a film called "In need of special care." This dealt with the work at Botton Village, one of three communities for mentally handicapped adults which are run by the Camphill Village Trust.

Botton Village is an estate of 280 acres in beautiful countryside near Whitby, Yorkshire. It was founded in 1955 by a group of people experienced in the care of the mentally handicapped.

The present village consists of three farms, four workshops, bakery, market garden, general stores and accommodation for 160 people in 15 separate households.

## RECOGNISED

The village is recognised by the Ministry of Labour as a centre for Sheltered Employment. None of the villagers are capable of finding jobs in open employment, but all must be able to make their contribution to the community and everyone is given the chance of doing as much as he possibly can. Some of the villagers are sub-normal spastics who have slight physical handicaps.

The film showed the many activities in which the villagers take part. Some work in the fields with the cows and sheep, while others make glass, candles or soft toys, or turn lathes and other power tools in the woodwork shop.

## SMOOTH-RUNNING

After work, the villagers can shop in their own general stores, go dancing, attend drama classes, or just relax in the non-institutional atmosphere of small "family" groups.

It is obvious that the smooth running of the village and the happy informality of the atmosphere is largely due to the patient and dedicated staff. It cannot be easy to care for fully-grown adults, some approaching middle age who have the mental capacity and monotonous conversation of four-year-olds.

ANNE PLUMMER.

(near Carnaby Street).

Established six months ago with a widening range of stock, it welcomes enquiries both for catalogues and pieces of gear not yet available. The catalogue says, "If enough interest is shown we can cause the manufacturers to change their right-hand minds."

Here are some of the items stocked:

For the handyman—A carpenter's work bench, bricklayer's trowel, T-squares, pruning shears, bill hook and trimmer tools.

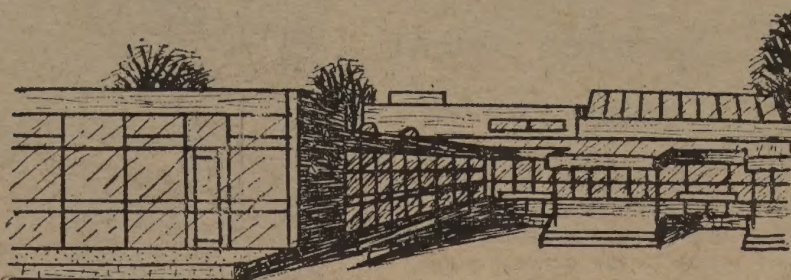
The housewife is well catered for with a stainless steel sink (drainer on the right), an ironing board, complete with sleeve board and sheet rail, an iron whose flex will not get in the way, saucepans with pouring lips on either side, potato peeler, rotary egg beater, bread knife and serrations set for the left-handed user, and scissors of various sizes.

## Palette

There are general items such as nail scissors, fountain pens, an artist's palette, a record turntable, and a spoon for the handicapped (the sort which has the bowl set at a right angle to the handle).

This enterprising shop can also advise where to get left-handed shot-guns, fencing equipment, archery, golf and cricketing gear, and musical instruments. Can life be made easier for you! Write to: "Anything Left-handed Limited," and find out.

S.K.



The Thomas Delarue School

The Spastics Society

## GPO approve postmark for fete

THE G.P.O. has given permission for a special postmark to be used by The Spastics Society's Thomas Delarue School at Tonbridge, Kent, during the school's garden fete in June.

The fete, which is being held on June 28, will mark the fifth anniversary of the school's official opening.

A special postbox is being provided at the fete by the G.P.O., and commemorative envelopes—bearing a black and white drawing of the school—will be posted in the box and cancelled with the Delarue postmark.

Man behind the postmark idea is Mr. E. Hayes, handicrafts master at Delarue, who founded the school stamp club five years ago.

Stamp fans who are unable to attend the fete but who would like copies of the hand-stamped envelope are invited to buy them from the Stamp Club.

The commemorative envelope together with (top right) the hand-stamp approved by the G.P.O.

## FROM DISINFECTANT TO LAMPSHADES

Loads of bricks, planking, drain pipes and a portable hut; a quagmire of a temporary road and a chaotic muddle of bits and pieces . . . You are at the start of a new Society project.

Just this happened in Wiltshire Lane, Pinner, at the beginning of the year and one's sympathy went out to the builders. In less than a year, however, the Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society will move into a new Work Centre and will leave, certainly without regret, very cramped premises in Acol Crescent, near the South Ruislip station.

## The mainstay

Despite the imperfection of the present building, the Centre is a busy place and the Work Centre Manager (Mr. E. L. Hedden) sorrowfully turns work away. Wire coat hangers are turned out by the thousand; a proprietary car indicator is in great demand, but perhaps the mainstay of the works programme are intricately machined parts.

In the background of this hive of activity are the fascinating jigs produced by Mr. Hedden and

his staff. The purpose of a jig is to ensure that the particular disability of the handicap is overcome. If the operator is unable to pull, the jig helps him to push, and the same end product is thus achieved.

## Hive of activity

The Society's work centres are a joy for the "do-it-yourself" enthusiast and a variety of products are turned out. At Ponds Home a weighted base bedside lamp is made, as well as a range of lampshades. In contrast, Wellington Work Centre at Ipswich produces washing-up liquid, a household disinfectant and wash-leather cuttings, excellent for window cleaning.

Not far away, at the Norwich Work Centre, a wide range of domestic articles are available—

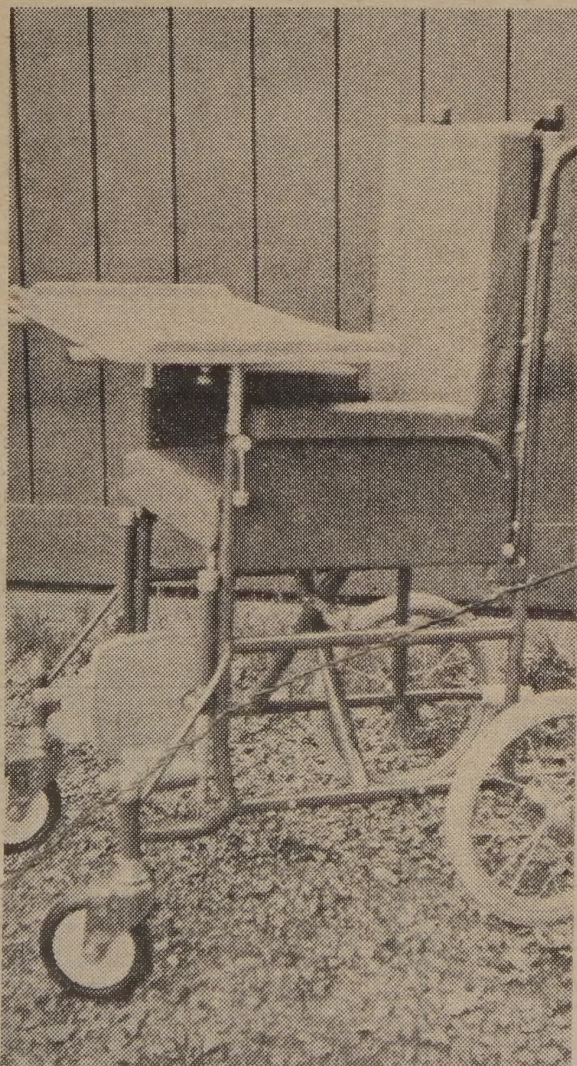
teapot stands, letter racks, trays and toy-building-bricks. In this same field the Southampton Work Centre makes coffee tables, chairs and the like, while from the Croydon Centre, one can obtain first class linen baskets ("Ali Baba") for which there is usually a waiting list.

Desk blotters are made at the North Surrey Graduate at the Centre at Kew's Work Centre at Kingston-upon-Thames, and from the "Meadway Works," quite apart from the letter-heads, wheelchairs, printed Christmas cards. One could go on with a longer list, but the main point is that the work centres are a hive of activity.

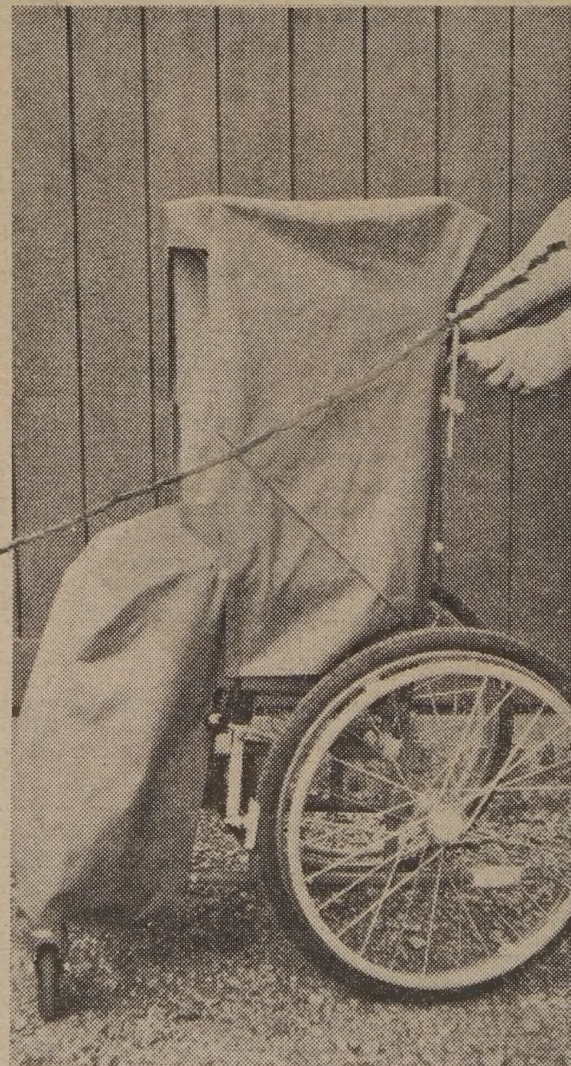
The Supplies Officer

## Aids and Appliances

From the Appliance Officer



Two wheelchairs from Amesbury Surgical Appliances . . . Left: M.O.H. model 8C is fitted with 11 in. rear cushion-tired wheels, a 2 in. back cushion and back extension, and 2 in. seat-cushion, as well as a

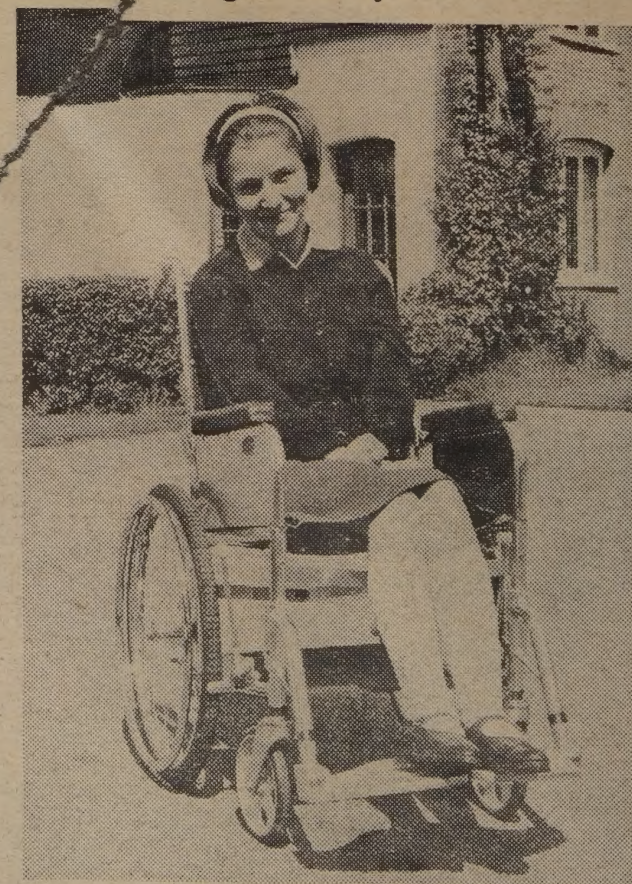


rectangular tray. The price is £29. Right: M.O.H. standard 8C wheelchair, fitted with quickly detachable and adjustable hood and apron in blue Vynide for weather protection.

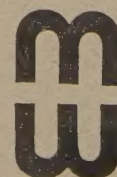
The chair costs £20 and the hood and apron £10-17-6. Both chairs have detachable and reversible arms to take the tray, as illustrated. Some chairs have folding back legs for easy storage in the boot of a car.

## LIGHT? LIGHTER? LIGHTTEST!

The NEWTON wheelchair is the lightest of them all



INSTANTLY DETACHABLE ARMRESTS AND DRIVING WHEELS. ALL WITH AUTOMATIC LOCKS. FOOTRESTS ARE DETACHABLE, ADJUSTABLE. NO MAINTENANCE NYLON BEARINGS. 100% GUARANTEE



THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

Meadway Works

Garretts Green Lane

Birmingham 33

Telephone 021-783 6083



## Bottle tops and pie cases hold key to cash

DOMESTIC aluminium foil scrap (silver paper), milk bottle tops, kitchen foil, foil wrapping (without paper) and old aluminium kettles and pans, all have value and can make a useful contribution towards helping spastics.

As an example, six cwt. will bring in £18, which is the approximate cost of maintaining a spastic for a week in a residential home. With very many people collecting, many more spastic children can be given the special education and care that is so essential.

Some schools and organisations send their collections direct to the smelter in bulk quantities of at least one cwt. (eight well-filled sacks) whilst others prefer to take their smaller amounts to one of the Society's National Schools or Centres in the neighbourhood.

### FAMILY TASK

This is a way of collecting in which all the family can participate. Father can save the foil from cigarette packets. Mother can save the kitchen pie cases and foil, and the children can wash the milk bottle soft tops and pack them in the sack. School pupils, Cubs, Brownies and other youth organisations often help and the members of many companies also collect.

If you have interest in a particular school or national centre of the Spastics Society, arrangements can be made for the amount received from your collections to be used for the maintenance costs of that unit.

Details of how this valuable work for handicapped spastics can be done are available from the Appeals Department, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1. Ask for Appeals Leaflet No. 5A.

## Stole spastic sister's P.O. money

A HAMMERSMITH woman who admitted drawing all her spastic sister's Post Office Savings was given a suspended sentence of three months imprisonment at a West London court.

The woman, Mrs. Maria Sherwin, admitted offences concerning a total of £50, and also asked for eight similar offences involving £57 to be taken into account.

In a statement, Mrs. Sherwin, who was said to have 15 previous convictions, claimed that she made the withdrawals to obtain money to look after her sister.

## First dance . . .

Formed a year ago, the Basildon and District Spastics Society held its first big dance at the Locarno Ballroom. It was well-attended and guests included the Chairman of the Council and the Town Manager.

## Greek family Tsaltas here for a stay

THIRTEEN-YEAR-OLD George Tsaltas has only just started to walk, yet already he has seen more of the world than most youngsters of the same age.

George's real home is in Athens, but the family is at present living in Brussels, where Mr. Tsaltas, in the Greek army, is working at NATO headquarters for two years.

George, his parents and two younger brothers all came over from Belgium to stay at The Spastics Society's Assessment Centre at Fitzroy Square for five days recently. This was the first visit to London for the younger boys, Stavros aged 9, and Yannis 3½, although George has been here before.

### Started to walk

The three of them all thoroughly enjoyed the visit, especially an outing to the zoo which was laid on for them by the Society.

The main purpose of the trip was for George to see Dr. Ronald Macleith at Guys Hospital, and arrangements were made for him to come back on his own next year to spend a month in hospital. His parents are delighted because George has just started to walk on his own.

He attends a special school for handicapped children in Brussels and when they go back to Greece will probably re-enrol at the small spastics' school in Athens which he left when they moved to Belgium.



George and his brothers play contentedly at Fitzroy Square.

## It's swinging Loughborough (and District)

Faced with the need for outside help in staging a really interesting and successful Spastics Week 1969, Loughborough and District Spastics Society decided to call a meeting of representatives of organisations in the Group area.

They advertised in the press and followed up every possible personal contact they had. Their first combined meeting was held in February, when Mr. J. Middleton, Group Chairman, explained the need for help and the broad plans for Spastics Week. Representatives reported back to their organisations and, at the second combined meeting in March, these organisations were ready to help:

Townswomen's Guild; Scouts; Guides; Brownies; Inner Wheel; Rotary; Round Table; Young Conservatives; the local band; Knights of St. Columbus; Trinity Church; the local Army Unit; and a number of interested individuals.

The programme to date for Spastics Week includes: a door knock; gymkhana; barbecue; beetle drive; coffee evenings; dance and wine and cheese parties.

The group already enjoys the benefit of the increased publicity and, with the help of the organisations mentioned, confidently expects this to increase in time for a "swinging" Spastics Week.

### £150 presented

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Altrincham and District Licensed Victuallers Association has presented £150 to the local Spastics Society.

# ONE YEAR ON — FITZROY SQUARE IS A SUCCESS

AFTER a little more than a year in operation, The Spastics Society's assessment and family counselling services in the setting of the Fitzroy Square Centre have been pronounced a great success by the Director, Mr. James Loring.

Said Mr. Loring: "I use the word 'success' with confidence, for a success the Centre has been. Everyone connected with it has been pleasantly surprised at the diversity of activities that have taken place there and at the variety of people who have stayed overnight or visited during the day."

"Among the assessments carried out at the Centre during the past year, some 250 families have been involved and nearly 100 young adults have attended for residential vocational assessment."

### Non-pretentious

"It has been particularly encouraging to know that parents have felt the advantages of coming to the Centre and have repeatedly commented on the informal and homely atmosphere and on their relief at not having to stay in a hotel on an occasion of some stress for them."

Mr. Loring spoke of the extensive use of the Centre for courses, conferences and holidays, and added: "The provision of highly professional services within a comfortable, non-pretentious, almost domestic setting has aroused the interest of many visitors and professional observers."

A deficit of £10,000 has to be met in respect of Fitzroy Square, and Mr. Loring has appealed to all Groups affiliated to the Society to support the Centre with financial contributions.

### Rags to bunting

North Surrey group of the Spastics Society is appealing for cotton or nylon remnants to sew together to make a mile of bunting for a fete to be held at Sandown Park, Esher, in June.

## Door-knock fall-out is new social club

THERE HAS BEEN an interesting fall-out following the recent door-knock in Dudley. Pupils and staff at a number of secondary schools there have now decided to support the Dudley and District Spastic Group by starting a social club for spastics.

As a beginning, senior pupils from the schools have paid visits to the Centre to meet the spastics and assist in practical projects.

The staff and pupils originally met to discuss ways of raising money to help maintain the Centre. But after hearing from the Group Chairman, Mr. H. Gwinnell, about the lack of social life among spastics, the school representatives suggested starting a social club for them.

When it is under way, a social evening will be held weekly.

## EDUCATION OFFICER APPOINTED

The Spastics Society have appointed Mr. Robert Lewin as their Education Officer in succession to Mr. John Le Prevost.

Mr. Lewin, who is 28, was formerly an administrative assistant in the education department of the London Borough of Merton. He was a student at the London School of Economics where he graduated B.Sc. (Econ.) and he also studied at the Institute of Education. His appointment took effect from April 1.

Mr. Lewin and his wife, who live at Merton Park, have two young children.

## Working men's concert aids bungalow

A concert at the Roundhill Working Men's Club yielded £115 for Castleford and District Spastics Society.

The money will augment the £1,350 already raised by the Society to buy a seaside bungalow or chalet and convert it as a holiday home for spastics.

## Eat, drink and be charitable . . .

Shoebury business-men have formed a dinner club with the joint objects of good eating and subscribing to charity.

The first dinner of the group, who call themselves the Cambridge Gourmet 30 Club, raised £20 for the Spastics Society.

## SIX-A-SIDE

### AT CROYDON

As part of their centenary celebrations, a Croydon newspaper is to sponsor a six-a-side soccer tournament on April 12.

The tournament organised by the Croydon and District Spastics Society, will be held at Ashburton Secondary Boys' School, and is restricted to clubs affiliated to the Surrey F.A. or any other county F.A. Sponsors are the "Croydon Advertiser."

### Meet the gang

Spastics were among the specially-invited audience at a repeat performance of "Meet the Gang", the successful entertainment put on by Huddersfield Scouts and Guides.



Admiring the painting are (left to right): Mrs. Holley, Mr. Holley, Miss Garwood and Mr. Burn. Mr. Holley has been treasurer for 16 years. (Picture, courtesy Croydon Advertiser).

## Mr. Holley leaves the Croydon books healthy after 16 years

When Mr. Fred Holley took over as treasurer of Croydon and District Spastics Society 16 years ago, the assets were £712 with spastics getting occasional treatment in a member's house.

When he relinquished the job this year because of business commitments, the assets stood at just under £50,000, including a centre for over 30 children and a work centre with 50 adults engaged in light engineering work.

The Society's debt to Mr. Holley and his wife who gave him great assistance, was acknowledged at a party attended by 150, where the Society's chairman, Miss Jean Garwood, presented him with an original oil painting, subscribed to

by his friends. Also present was the Spastics Society Chairman, Mr. W. A. Burn, who paid tribute to Mr. and Mrs. Holley and to the work of the Croydon Society. Mr. Holley remains on the executive committee.



# £30,000 grant for sports centre is announced

MR. ROBERT CANT (Lab., Stoke-on-Trent Central) asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science in the House of Commons what government assistance was being given towards the provision of a sports centre for the physically disabled at Stoke Mandeville.

## 100-miles-an evening for swimmers

Shrewsbury Swimming Club are to swim 100 miles in one evening to raise money for spastics.

The club will do it in a mammoth sponsored relay at the town's new swimming bath. It will take about 4½ hours, and there will be as many as 36 swimmers in the water at the same time.

Proceeds of the event, in June, will be for a holiday bungalow for spastics.

Mr. Denis Howell, the Under Secretary, said in a written reply: "I am pleased to say that the Department of Education and Science is making a grant to the Paraplegic Sports Endowment Fund of £30,000 towards the capital cost of this centre, which will enable the annual Stoke Mandeville Games to continue to be held and provide the first indoor sports facilities specifically designed for the physically handicapped."

"These facilities are likely to be used by the able-bodied members of the community as well as the physically handicapped."

Footnote: The National Spastics Games are being held at Stoke Mandeville in July.

## Crossword contest

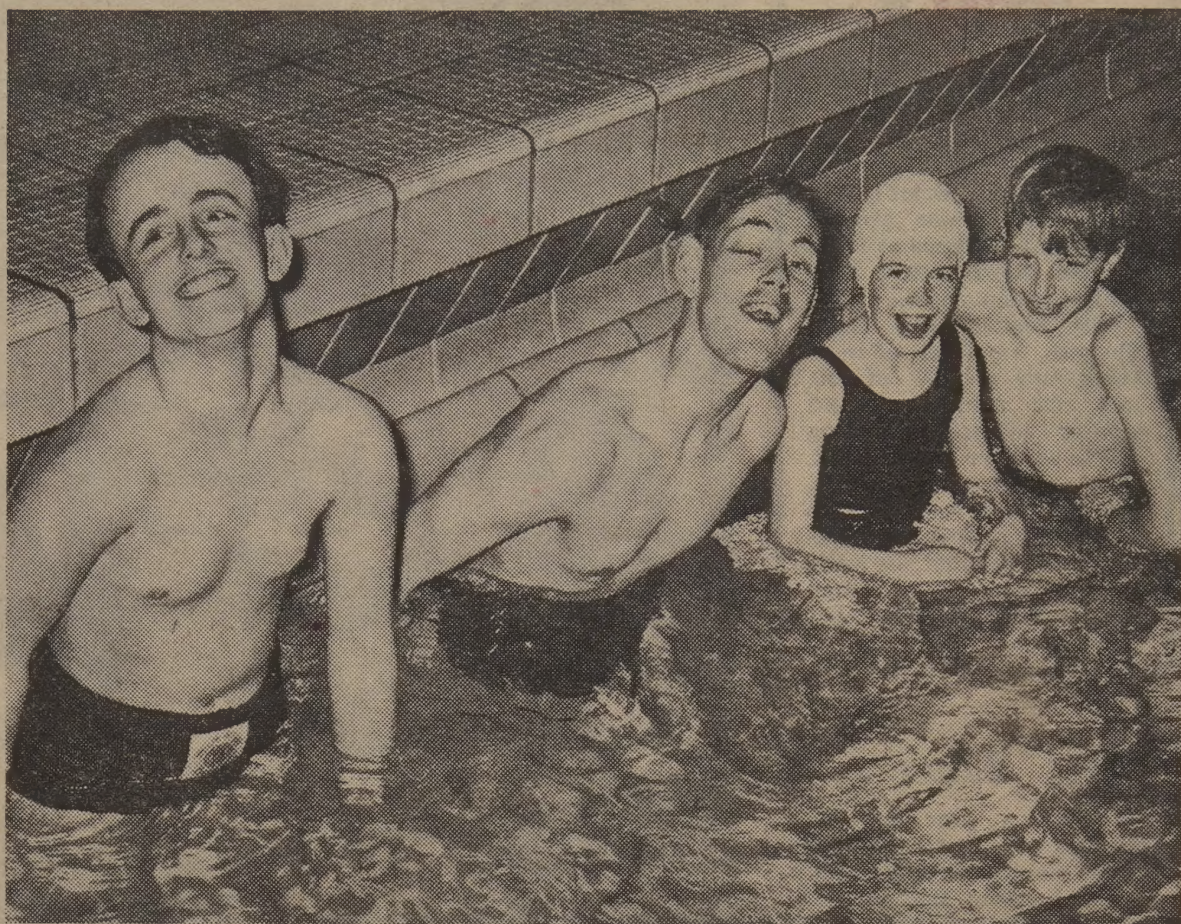
Winners in the April Crossword Contest were Mrs. D. Ford, of Street, Somerset (cryptic) and L. Paton, of Romford, Essex (easy).

### SOLUTIONS

CRYPTIC: Across—5 Scion. 8 Esoteric. 9 Smock. 10 Ironside. 11 Soapy. 14 Fez. 16 Parole. 17 Eleven. 18 Wen. 20 Steel. 24 Monopoly. 25 Acids. 26 Devilish. 27 Reins. Down—1 Lenin. 2 Motor. 3 Beast. 4 Riddle. 6 Composer. 7 Occupier. 12 Pastiche. 13 Poseidon. 14 Few. 15 Zen. 19 Eroded. 21 Tonic. 22 Comic. 23 Hythe.

EASY: Across—5 Drift. 8 Napoleon. 9 Inert. 10 Evidence. 11 Avons. 14 Asp. 16 Ration. 17 Enters. 18 Ton. 20 Snags. 24 Paleface. 25 Goons. 26 Agitated. 27 Stalk. Down—1 Under. 2 Spain. 3 Sleep. 4 Voices. 6 Renovate. 7 Firework. 12 Raincoat. 13 Diagonal. 14 Ant. 15 Pen. 19 Orange. 21 Rents. 22 Parts. 23 Needy.

The Crossword contest will be resumed next month.



Spastic swimmers (left to right), Kevin Milton, David Stevens, Mavis Brown and Gareth Stevens are busy practising for the national Spastics Games at Stoke Mandeville in July, where they will represent the Bedford and District Spastics Society. (Picture, courtesy of the Bedfordshire Times).

## WRESTLING WITH THE PROBLEM

MICK McMANUS was one of the entrants in a guess-the-name-of-the-doll contest arranged by Miss Marion Banks, of 11 Norwood Crescent, Kiveton Park, Sheffield.

The famous wrestler, a friend of Miss Banks, who is a spastic, had two sixpenny tries — and gave a £1 donation.

Says Miss Banks: "The competition was open until April 30. The doll has two unusual Christian names, and it and the collecting tin were displayed in a local shop."

The money will go to spastics.

## Rovers fan Jesse Craig sees his first match

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLD spastic Jesse James Craig has realised the ambition of a lifetime, thanks to Blackburn Rovers, whose top fan he has been for many years.

Despite his interest in the team, Jesse had never been able to watch them play in the flesh. He is unable to use his legs.

But then he wrote to the

club's manager, who sent him pictures and autographs—and invited him to watch Rovers' home game against Fulham.

Mr. Bill Smith, former Rovers player, now superintendent of Jesse's training centre, who took him to the match, said: "It was a wonderful day for him."

## Not 'Sweet Charity'?

Any takings in excess of £500 at a charity performance of "Call Me Madam" at the Adelphi, Slough, were being donated to Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society.

## BLANKET OFFER . . .

A LARGE blanket of squares knitted by an 88-year-old Yorkshire woman is on offer to a spastic children's home. The woman is the mother of R.P.P. collector Mr. G. Squires of 56 George Street, Horbury (Yorks.), and she wants to present the blanket for use in a spastic children's establishment. The R.P.P. Area Supervisor says: "The lady is quite active and is a member of the Spastics League Club."

## SMALL corner

The rates for private advertisements in the "small ads" column are only 2/6 per line, with a minimum of three lines, allowing five words per line. Cheques, postal orders or money orders should be made out to The Spastics Society. (Trade rates on application).

### Holidays

4-BERTH-CARAVAN at Felixstowe for spastics and their families. £6 per week. Write to Mr. Snell, 3 Manor Terrace, Felixstowe.

RUTH HOUSE Holiday Centre, Cromer, for spastics and their families. In the nicest part of town with every facility. For terms write to Ruth House, Cliff Avenue, Cromer.

### For Sale

YOUNG MAN wishes to sell Morris Mini (1963). In excellent condition. Full Resseco conversion (Surf Blue & White), £275 o.n.o. Apply Mr. A. B. Lees, "Greenways", Crick, Nr. Rugby, Warwicks. (phone Crick 376 after 5 p.m.)

SPECIAL for parents: "Handling the Young Cerebral Palsied Child at Home," by Nancie R. Frith, M.C.S.P. An invaluable handbook. From Heinemann, 18s. "Assessment of the Cerebrally Palsied Child for Education," edited by James Loring. From Spastics Society Publications Department, 15s.

WATERPROOF PANTS. Super quality, size 1 XL (5-9 years) 3/6 pair, 6 pairs 18/-. Size 2 XL (9-15 years) 3/6 pair, 6 pairs 20/-. Sandra incontinence pants, pull-on, adult sizes, 30in.—40in. hip, 5/3 pair. Sandra mattress covers, tie-on, lightweight boilable plastic, 48in. x 72in. 10/- each. All prices include postage. Mrs. C. Goodall, 63 Old Mill Close, Brighton, BN1, 8WE.

## Spastics made Insp. Barlow's caravan

FIRST KINDLY father to buy a Romany caravan made by spastics at the Society's Sherrards Industrial Training Centre is actor Stratford Johns.

The brightly-painted caravan is set up in the garden of the Surrey home of police chief Barlow of "Z Cars" and "Softly, Softly" fame, and his family.

Buying one yourself? You will have a bargain at £230. As well as looking pretty and downright romantic, the caravan is very useful.

It can be used as a playroom, summer-house, study, guest room or sewing room, and it arrives fully furnished with bunks, toy chests, table, bookshelves, seats, and a blackboard. It has matching curtains and zipped cover foam cushions.

The price includes delivery and erection. No expensive foundations are needed, and if you move the caravan goes with you in the removal van.

Since Stratford Johns bought his caravan two others have been sold, and many inquiries have been addressed to Sherrards. Now designer Christopher R. Wilson may adapt the caravan for horse-drawn holiday journeys.



The children, Frith, aged 13, Peta, 11, Alan, six, are thoroughly enjoying the new acquisition, and Mrs. Nanette Johns, with baby Lissa, says if she ever wants to escape for peace and quiet, she will lock herself in the caravan! Stratford Johns—and the family—have already appeared with the caravan on television, much to the delight of the Sherrards people who manufactured this ultimate status symbol for the smart garden.

200,000 people \*

read Spastics News

**ADVERTISE**  
and reap the benefit

Business advertisers, send for rate card and specimen copy to: DIANA MYERS, NEW HOME PRESS, 2 HELMET COURT, 11 WORMWOOD STREET, E.C.2

PRIVATE and SMALL ADS. to: EDITOR, 12 PARK CRESCENT, LONDON, W.1.

\* On the accepted basis of three readers per copy sold.